LYNCHINGS- 1940
EGISLATION RELATING TO

NEGRO PRESS, NORTHERN

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WHITE SAYS ANTI-LYNCH BILL FATE UP TO FOLKS BACK HOME

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—"We're going to have a tough fight to pass the anti-lynching bill in the Senate. Whether or not we will win this fight depends almost entirely on the pressure that can be exerted, and exerted at once by the people back home."

This was the statement made by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as a forecast of what is to happen to the Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching bill which passed the House Wednesday, January 10, by a vote of 252 to 131, and has been sent to the Senate.

The N. A. A. C. P. secretary, pointing out what is necessary to be done now, in the fight to pass the bill in the Senate, said he believes that Senator Tom Connally, of Texas, an avowed enemy of the bill, will insist on holding hearings. Although Senator Henry F. Ashurst (D) of Arizona, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has not announced the names of members of the sub-committee which will hold hearings, it is understood that Senator Connally will probably be a member of the committee.

Urges United Front

Mr. White urged individuals and organizations interested in pushing the passage of the bill through to:

"Write to your Senator and tell him that you want hearings to be held at once, and that you want him to exert his influence to bring this about, and that you urge him him to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) if a filibuster is started against the bill."

Urging that citizens buy anti-lynching buttons, Mr. White added: "We need money badly to carry this fight forward. That is why we want to see every one of our 125,000 anti-lynching buttons [illegible]"

Mine Workers Endorse Anti-Lynching Bill

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 2—A resolution supporting passage of the federal anti-lynching bill was passed here January 25, by the United Mine Workers, who are holding their golden jubilee convention. The convention also passed a resolution demanding the release of the five remaining Scottsboro boys.

10 WITNESSES TESTIFY FOR LYNCH BILL

Authorities Declare That Only U.S. Can End Mob Slayings

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 9—Witnesses of both races testifying in support of a federal anti-lynching bill told a Senate sub-committee of the judiciary committee at the hearing opening here February 9 that only a federal anti-lynching law would curb mob violence effectively.

Nine witnesses were scheduled to testify for the bill.

They included W. J. Durham, an attorney of Sherman, Tex., who witnessed a lynching May 9, 1930, in which the courthouse of Sherman was burned down by a mob; Dean William H. Hastie of the Howard university law school, former United States district judge in the Virgin Islands;

R. R. Grovey, Houston, Tex.; Rev. Gresham Marmion, rector of St. Albans P. E. church, Washington, who tried to stop the double lynching of two boys in Columbus, Tex., in 1935; Dr. George F. Porter, president of Wiley junior college, Dallas, Tex.

Walter White Speaks

Dr. Arthur Rapier, research secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Ralph Bunche, professor of political science: Howard university; Arthur B. Spingarn, president of the N.A.A.C.P.; and Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P.

In his testimony, Walter White dealt in detail with the arguments made against the bill, especially in the house debates in January and refuted them.

He asserted that lynchings had declined because of the agitation for a federal law and that failure to pass the pending bill would send the lynching total up again. He cited a number of undercover lynchings and asserted that the real total was far greater than the five reported for last year by the N.A.A.C.P.

Turning to the statements made in the senate during the filibuster of 1938 that the states could and would take care of lynching, Mr. White pointed out that 11 well-authenticated lynchings had taken place since that time and not even an arrest had been made in 10 of them, with convictions in none.

Warns Country

The N.A.A.C.P. secretary warned that the American form of government was endangered when mobs are not restrained.

"If I were a Communist, a Nazi, or a Fascist," he declared, and wanted to destroy or weaken American Democracy, I would work unceasingly to prevent passage of anti-lynching legislation."

Mr. White told of the service of the Race as a soldier and of the lynchings which went on while he was fighting in France "for democracy," also of the lynchings which greeted Negroes upon their return home.

He warned that the Race could not be expected to fight in any war which might develop out of present world conditions without some guarantee that they will receive some protection and democracy for themselves.

Dean Hastie dealt with the constitutional aspects of the legislation. Mr. Spingarn testified to the effect which lynching has on the good name of America in the rest of the world and quoted several Italian and German newspapers.

Anti-Lynch Foes

THE present anti-lynch bill, which recently overwhelmingly passed the national House, faces a tough fight in the Senate. The southern Senators, who are avowed anti-lynch bill foes, will resort to every trick and strategem in order to insure defeat of the measure during this session, just as they have always done. These Senators are foes of the measure, not because of any logical argument they are able to present against it as being detrimental legislation, but because they are actuated by the same old rebellious spirit that brought on the Civil War more than three quarters of a century ago. Time has not served to wean them from the curse that made their ancestors ruthless slave drivers odious to civilization.

It may be that through the machinations of such a clique the anti-lynch bill will again be defeated. That will be a shameful commentary upon our national statesmanship as well as a foul reflection upon the national spirit of love for law and order. To us it seems quite disgraceful that there should be a need for measures of restraint against such ruthlessness and murder as is practiced by mobs of men who do others to death in a wild frenzy of fiendish mobocracy. In a country boasting of its heritage of love for freedom and justice, the spectacle of mob tolerance is comprehensively incompatible with this wildly heralded preachment. But, even so, when an attempt being made to stamp out so great an evil is frustrated through the efforts of a small clique of men who have no sense of human values the shame resting upon the nation is made more glaring and odious.

We do not say that the present bill will completely stop southern killings. We do not expect it to. But it is certain that the employment of federal authority in a vigorous manner against this barbarous practice will at least lessen its frequency, and will assure to those from among whom its victims are usually taken, the interest and activity of the government in protecting their lives and their freedom. Moreover, it will show that the national conscience is strongly against [illegible] practice that is now, and has always been, a curse to the nation, shaming it before the entire conference of civilized nations.

Quiz Barkley On Lynch Bill

Reminding him of his pledge, [illegible] convention of the National Colored Democratic Association in Chicago two weeks ago, that the anti-lynching bill would be voted upon before the present session of Congress adjourned, the N. A. A. C. P. this week requested Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley to set a date for debate and vote on the controversial measure.

In the letter to Barkley, which also cited the recent lynching of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tenn., and the fact that several Negroes, including Rev. Buster Walker, have been unable to return to their homes because of the continued threat of mob violence in the community.

"We are certain that Negroes throughout the country were heartened by this declaration. The organizations and individuals who have been for years working for enactment of this legislation are gratified at your statement and look forward to the opportunity to have the bill voted upon by the members of the United States Senate."

Defender - 8-3-40

Quiz Barkley On Date For Lynch Bill Vote

Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Monday again requested Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley to set a date for debate and vote on the pending Wagner-VanNuys Capper-Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

The request was based upon the pledge of Senator Barkley before Negro delegates to the Democratic national convention in Chicago that the anti-lynching bill will be voted upon before Congress adjourns."

"We are certain that Negroes throughout the country were heartened by this declaration," the letter said. "The organizations and individuals who have been for years working for enactment of this legislation are gratified at your statement and look forward to the opportunity to have the bill voted upon by the members of the United State Senate."

Senator Barkley was reminded of the recent lynching of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tenn., and the fact that several Race members, including Rev. Buster Walker, have been unable to return to their homes because of the continued threat of mob violence in the community.

The branches of the N.A.A.C.P. and cooperating organizations and interested individuals are urged to immediately write or telegraph Senator Barkley requesting an early date for a vote on the anti-lynching bill prior to adjournment of Congress.

252
131

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Mississippi Congressman Stages Act Against Anti-Lynch Bill

Plaindealer 1-19-40 Kansas City, Mo.

RANKIN LEADS ALL NEGRO PHOBISTS AS

SOUTH FAILS TO HALT LYNCH BILL PASSAGE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 — (By A. E. White for ANP) — Painting the Southern Negro as the "most desperate character in the world when he seeks out white women," the "gentleman" (designated as such by the Speaker of the House) from Mississippi, one John E. Rankin, rtpresenting the first district of his state, takes first place as the champion Negrophobe of the United States House of Representatives after his speech before a crowded legislative body here Wednesday against the Gavagan Anti-Lynching bill which passed, 254 to 132.

Repeatedly using the term "nigger" in his tirade against passage of the bill, Rankin asserted:

"If they ever send another nigger to congress from New York, and I hope they never do, I pray that he will be so black that charcoal will make a white mark on him."

Lashing out at Rep. Gavagan, who had made a brilliant, scholarly defense of his bill earlier in the morning, southerner after southerner pleaded for the defeat of the bill.

"We know how to handle those folks, they are our folk and we can do more with and for them than you folks up north."

"When they go bad for us, we send them to Harlem. That's where all the bad niggers are," Rankin said.

One speaker had a threatening tone in his voice as he declared,

"Pass this bill and every peace officer in the South will be absent when a nigger commits a crime."

So deeply imbedded is the crime of rape in the opponents of the bill, it seems as if this crime is the most prevalent in the South, for no arguments against the bill's constitutionality were offered, although Rep. Sam Hobbs (Alabama, made a impassioned speech, crying out against the "injustice of the bill, aimed as he said at one section of the country.

Claiming the bill a "purely political move," the southerners, who represent only the whites of their districts, attempted every known trick in seeking to stave off defeat. But trick met trick and Gavagan on one side and Hamilton Fish on the other generalled their forces masterfully to give the bill a passage.

Packed galleries listened intently as orator after orator besmirched the character of Negroes and exalted the white womanhood of the South. Into the Congressional Record went story after story in sordid details emphasizing the "brutal Negro rapists" who, according to the representatives from those districts, prowl the southland.

Speaking of Rep. Gavagan's address, it was openly admired as one of the clearest and most logical presentations on the constitutionality of the bill and left no doubt in the minds of his hearers as to how the measure would stack up when put to a test.

Having thus far won its fight in the house after a battle which began in 1922, the N.A.A.C.P. now turns its guns on the stubborn senate where a more bitter fight is expected when the measure comes before that body under the sponsorship of Senator Wagner.

Monday when the bill was first called, southern congressmen, led by Eugene Cox of Georgia, launched their fruitless fight.

Said Mr. Cox: "This is a miserably sorry bargaining away of the respect and integrity of the South for the Negro votes of the North. It is the Harlem district of New York exercising more influence with the party in power than the whole white South.

"This bill is the expersion of a hostility, — a senseless, venomous ignorant, unreasoning hostility—that has existed in some quarters against the South for almost a century."

However, Hamilton Fish countered with:

"There are still some American ostriches who refuse to recognize the constitutional rights of 13,000,000 free colored Americans, one-tenth of our entire population, to equal protection and the due process provisions of the law."

So Tuesday saw hot skirmishes and verbal battles which waxed hot and eloquent as southerner after southerner following New York's James W. Wadsworth, Republican, argued against passage of the measure.

Rep. Wadsworth was calm in his denunciation of the bill, calling it a "snare and a delusion" declaring that an educational program would be the far better solution. He pointed out that the country had 100 lynchings or more annually just a few years ago, dropping to a new low of three in 1939.

Texas, Georgia, South Carolina, paraded their speakers all of whom were anxious to get on the record as opposing the bill so their voters would see just where they stood on the measure.

And equally as brilliant were the speakers from the other sections of the country in attempting to justify the passage of the law.

From states' rights to constitutionality to protecting southern womanhood — the southern orators ranted, many interpolating biting remarks about the violation of southern women by Negro rapists — which brought angry replies from the defenders of the bill who showed that Negroes were not rapists according to figures submitted on lynchings.

At one time in the proceedings the speaker of the house had to warn the audience in the galleries to refrain from making any show of pleasure or displeasure.

"The audience in the gallery is here as guests of the house. As guests of the house, they have no part in the proceedings and are, therefore, requested to refrain from making any demonstration of their pleasure or displeasure."

Few representatives were present at the debate, only some 75 or 80 remaining through the long session on Tuesday.

Ask Roosevelt To Take Stand On Lynch Bill

The Plaindealer Kansas city, Kansas

NEW YORK, Jan. 12 (By Cleveland G. Allen for ANP)—Congressman Hamilton Fish in a message read at the Emancipation day exercises at St. Mark's Methodist church Monday afternoon and said that Negroes should urge the President of the United States to use his influence for the immediate passage of the anti lynching bill which comes for discussion on January 8.

The letter addressed to Cleveland G. Allen, who presided at the meeting reads as follows: "I wish that you would inform your audience that I expect to lead the fight, with Representative Gavagan, for the enactment of the Gavagan Fish anti lynching bill when it comes up in the House of Representatives on Jan. 8, and would appreciate it if your people would write to the President of the United States and petition or ask him to come out publicly for this bill, and to use his influence in favor of the passage of this legislation.

"Six months ago the President exerted his influence to emasculate the Neutrality bill for the advantage of certain foreign nations. It seems that he might well use his influence, as President of the United States in behalf of the security and lives of the American people and especially the colored by urging the immediate passage of the anti lynching bill."

Other letters were read from Gov. Herbert Lehman, Congressman Bruce Barton, Judge Jane Bolin, Senator Robert Taft, Thomas E. Dewey and John D. M. Hamilton of the Republican National committee. Mr. Hamilton in his letter said: "The colored people who were the beneficiaries of the Emancipation have proved by the worth of their citizenship, and by their great progress that Lincoln's confidence in them was not misplaced."

Half of the Battle Won

When the House of Representatives passed the Federal Anti-lynching Bill, a tremendously significant step forward in the right direction in the fight for full citizenship of our people was made. The members of the House fulfilled their duty and now it is up to the United States Senate to determine whether this nation shall put its approval on the mob terrorism and disrespect for the law or give all of its citizens their rights. The passage of the bill in the House reflects the overwhelming indignation of Democratic America against lynching and mob violence and most certainly the Senate will not let that record just be a memory.

We realize that it is not going to be an easy matter to get the Senate's O. K. We know that the southern "Gone With the Winds" rebels will get off their vile insults against our people as they did in the House of Representatives. We know that there will be demagoguery from within both major parties, while the chieftains of both will perhaps conspire with the southern filibusterers to smother the bill in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Let us at home keep close watch on the movements of our Senators in order that we will know what to do in the coming election. Watch the newspapers and keep informed and know who is who on this vital issue.

Only the unity of the Negro with the aid of other good Americans acting independently, can see this bill through the Senate. Resolutions and wires should be sent immediately to the Senate Judiciary Committee, demanding the bill be brought out for a vote, and to your individual Senator. Also wires and write letters, as well as special delegations should call on President Roosevelt and ask him to use his influence in getting the Senate to pass on the bill and enact a federal law against lynching.

It does seem that a Federal law for the protection of human beings should not create such a big disturbance, but yet we must contend with southern white men in the Congress who believe in the double standard of the law where Negroes are concerned. The bill should pass the Senate without a protest because it is right and just and it should be passed at the present session of Congress, but yet there will be supposed to-be intelligent members of the Senate who will no doubt make a mockery of the measure. Lynchings and mob violence must go in this nation, if we are to ever have a democracy. We have no right to talk about the people in Europe and other parts of the world because the lynching problem here in America is just as serious as the war in Germany. America will never be at peace as long as lynchers, terrorism and mob violence are permitted without the Federal Government saying, No. The future of the Anti-Lynching bill depends upon the action of the Senate.

COLLIER'S AND THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

THE ARGUMENT that since lynching is on the decline, there is no need for a federal law to end this form of mass murder is rehashed in the current issue of Collier's Magazine. According to the editors of Collier's, lynching will die a natural death if left alone. What if there are still three or four lynchings a year, there were nearly 300 in 1892, they ask.

Our federal constitution guarantees to all its citizens the full protection of the law and under our system of government a man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty, but in the case of lynchings, the mob is judge and jury and executioner all in one. This is contrary to every idea of a democratic government and as long as there is even one lynching, and sentiment in the section where such a lynching occurs to whitewash the lynchers, we need the federal government to step in and exercise its police powers.

The same argument used by Collier's that lynching is on the decline, could be used against kidnapping, yet no effort was made to prevent the passage of the federal anti-kidnapping law, and the use of Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to track down those guilty of this crime.

President Roosevelt has indicated that he is more interested in the welfare of the people as a whole than in property rights or the interest of any particular group. How does he stand on the federal anti-lynching bill? An expression of his attitude at this time would do much to either help pass the bill or put an end to the agitation for its passage at this session of Congress.

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Pressure Of Citizens At Home On U.S. Senate Will Determine The Fate Of Anti-Lynching Bill

WASHINGTON, D. C.—"We're going to have a tough fight to pass the Anti-Lynching Bill in the Senate. Whether or not we will win this fight depends almost entirely on the pressure that can be exerted, and exerted at once by the people back home".

This was the statement made by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as a forecast of what is to happen to the Gavagan-Fish Anti-lynching bill which passed the House on Wednesday, January 10, by a vote of 252 to 131, and has been sent to the Senate. 140 Republicans, 109 Democrats, 1 American Laborite, and 2 Progressives voted for the bill, while 123 Democrats, and 8 Republicans opposed it.

The N. A. A. C. P. secretary, pointing out what is necessary to be done now, in the fight to pass the bill in the Senate, said he believes that Senator Tom Connally, of Texas, an avowed enemy of the bill, will insist on holding hearings. Although Senator Henry F. Ashurst (D) of Arizona, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has not announced the names of members of the sub-committee which will hold hearings, it is understood that Senator Connally will probably be a member of the committee.

Mr. White urged individuals and organizations interested in pushing the passage of the bill through to:

"Write to your Senator and tell him that you want hearings to be held at once, and that you want him to exert his influence to bring this about, and that you urge him to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) if a filibuster is started against the bill."

The secretary of the N. A. A. C. P. said that the association plans to corral witnesses from many of the Southern states and to have them testify when hearings are held. Many of these witnesses, will come from Texas, the home state of Vice-President Garner, Senator Connally, and Representative Martin Dies.

"These witnesses," he said, "will show that in Texas, which ha shad more than 500 lynchings to its credit since statistics were first undertaken in 1885, continues to operate as one o fthe key southern states where denial of civil liberties, leading to lynchings, has been most flagrant."

Mild Southern Reaction

Commenting on the passage of the bill in the House this week, he said:

"Two things stand out in the passage of the bill in the House. The first is that Representative Joseph Gavagan, who made such a spirited fight two years ago, saw the results of his labor this week. There was a mildness about the Southern reaction to the bill, except for the tirades of Rankin, of Mississippi, and Cox of Georgia, that was absent two years ago. With Representative Gavagan drivin- forward in his usual hard-hitting manner, the bill went through despite opposition.

"The second important note in the House fight was the appreciation by Representatives of the fact that the Negro vote in 1940 is an important balance of power in those states which will have the final say about the presidential election, and that this vote is increasingly intelligent and independent."

The N. A. A. C. P. secretary made it clear that every effort will be welcomed from throughout the South to supply authentic information about conditions surrounding lynchings and near lynchings in their communities, particularly in Texas. The information should be mailed promptly to The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth avenue, New York. He stressed the importance of drafting the information in the form of signed affidavits, records of court proceedings, and newspaper clippings in order to assure authenticity.

Four New Yorkers Against Bill

For the benefit of New York voters The New York Age publishes the following list of New York Congressmen who voted AGAINST the Anti-Llynching Bill in Congress last week. Clip this item and save it. All are Republicans.

Walter G. Andrews
Harold E. Cluett
Sterling W. Cole
James W. Wadsworth.

Lynch Bill Backed by United Mine Workers

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Resolutions condemning the Chicago Memorial Day steel workers' "massacre," demanding the release of the five Scottsboro boys, and supporting the anti-lynching Bill, now before Congress, were [illegible] the CIO United Mine Workers' Convention here last week.

Lynch Bill Victory Ups NAACP Button Sales to 64,000

NEW YORK.—Antilynching buttons' sales shot up to 64,000 following passage of the Federal Antilynching Bill by Congress, according to Mrs. Daisy Lampkin, national field secretary of the NAACP, directing a nation-wide sale of 125,000 buttons.

The buttons carry the slogan, "Stop Lynching—Build Democracy." The sales are bevond the half-way mark.

Voters Can Save Antilynch Bill, Says White

WASHINGTON

With the Gavagan-Fish Antilynching Bill passed last week by a 252 to 131 vote in the House of Representatives, friends of the measure this week busied themselves with the task of winning support for the bill in the Senate where it faces its strongest opposition.

The fate of the measure "depends entirely upon the pressure exerted by the people back home," Walter White, NAACP executive secretary declared.

The NAACP secretary, pointing out what is necessary to be done now, said that he believes Senator Tom Connally of Texas, an avowed enemy of the bill, will insist on holding hearings.

Although Senator Henry F. Ashurst (Dem., Ariz.), Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has not announced the names of members of the subcommittee which will hold these hearings, it is understood that Senator Connally will probably be one of them.

Procedure Outlined

Mr. White urged individuals and organizations interested in passage of the bill to:

"Write to your Senator and tell him that you want hearings to be held at once, and that you want him to exert his influence to bring this about, and that you urge him to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) if a filibuster is started against the bill."

He said that the association plans to corral witnesses from many of the Southern States and to have them testify, when hearings are held.

Urging that citizens buy antilynching buttons, Mr. White added: "We need money badly to carry this fight forward. That is why we want to see every one of our 125,000 antilynching buttons sold."

Vote Power Recognized

An important factor in House action on the bill, according to Mr. White, was the "appreciation by Representatives of the fact that the colored vote in 1940 is an important balance of power in those States which will have the final say about the Presidential election, and that this vote is increasingly intelligent and independent."

The NAACP secretary urged that authentic information about conditions surrounding lynchings and near lynchings be mailed promptly to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, in the form of signed affidavits, records of court proceedings, and newspaper clippings.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AGAIN

As was expected and predicted by those interested in the matter, the anti-lynching bill was passed by the House of Representatives Wednesday, January 10, by a vote of 252 to 131. But the fight to make this legislation a federal law has just begun. The measure will, of course, go to the United States Senate for passage by that body. And it is there that the bill will meet a stiff and stubborn opposition. It was in the Senate in 1938 that filibuster tactics were used by southern Senators to "talk the bill to death." As to whether they will have the same clique and sufficient support to duplicate the 1938 act is yet to be seen. It is our judgment that if the supporters of the bill will get right down to "brass tacks" and go into the fight in the spirit of battling for a human law, their efforts will be crowned with success.

Of course, many of the southern Senators who are avowed enemies of the bill will make loud and eloquent pleas for a new lease on lynching. Some of them will even shed crocodile tears as they wax eloquent, telling of the southerners love for his "black mammy" who made such great sacrifices before and during the Civil War to care for her white charges, many of whose sons are members of the present congress. In this connection we cite a few excerpts from a speech made by Senator Charles O. Andrews of Florida when he was fighting the anti-lynching bill two years ago:

> "No story in history is more beautiful than that regarding the loyal old black mammy who shared the tender care incident to the bringing up of the children of the South, not only during the years preceding the Civil War, but to a large extent down to the present time. No law will ever cause any true southerner to hate, mistreat or turn his back upon the good colored people who cared for him and looked after his welfare when a child. I should like to see her statue placed on the public square of every capitol of the South. It should be fashioned in bronze, so that it could never rust or decay. It should be in the image of the typical old black mammy, with a snow-white kerchief crowning her brow, and a little white boy and a little white girl leaning upon her knee. I would have inscribed upon that monument: 'Immortality—The Black Mammy of the South.'"

Our reply at that time was as follows: "We wonder whether the senator was fooling or kidding himself or just killing time. 'Consistency, thou art a jewel.' The attitude of the senator from the peninsula state toward the colored people of today is so inconsistent with his statements of his love for his black mammy, that it makes every word of his sound hypocritical to us. If the black mammy could speak she would say that she cares not for the words of eulogy, nor does she have any longing for the monuments in honor of her devotion to the white children for whom she cared, but she would say she could best be honored by giving her children the rights of citizenship, making them immune to the lyncher's rope and the mob's torch, making them citizens of the first rank by giving them equal educational facilities in the South, and giving them justice in the courts of law. Yes, it would do her honor to remove the jim-crow cars from your railroads and make the sidewalks of the southern city a safe place for her children to walk. These are some of the things you can do, Senator Andrews, that will make your speech in congress appear just a bit consistent."

This same sort of eloquence will come from such men as Senator Bilbo of Mississippi, Ellender of Louisiana, Ed "Cotton" Smith of South Carolina, Connally of Texas and others of their ilk, all of which is to give the South another two-year lease on lynching. But despite such pleas, the leading, thinking people of the nation are getting tired of this mob rule which gives license to a self-constituted bunch to take the law in their hands, lynch, kill and mob citizens at will. Everybody now knows that the old coined statement that lynching was necessary for the protection of southern womanhood is a fallacy and has been totally disproved. In the last report on lynching not one of the victims was accused of the crime of rape. But it also might be interesting to note that one of the victims was lynched because he dared to argue with a white man over a debt. Such an argument, it is said, caused an infuriated citizenry to rise and take vengeance on a Negro who had the effrontery to do such a thing in a civilized community.

Surely it is time for the government to take a hand in this plain violence of individual constitutional rights based upon the Fourteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution. Such a law is not an invasion of state rights but a protection of human rights. The people of the South have in the past "winked" at lynching because colored people were, as a rule, the victims, but it might be interesting to note that in the last report it showed that thirty-three and one-third per cent of the victims were white, there being two colored and one white lynched during the last six months of 1939.

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Says Defense Measure Stands In Way of Anti-Lynch Bill

SO SAYS SENATE LEADER BARKLEY

In Reply to N. A. A. C. P. Appeal

New York—For the fourth time in as many months, Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley told the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that he does not intend to do anything to bring up the federal anti-lynching bill for a vote on the floor of the Senate.

The Senator made his declaration to the NAACP in response to a recent letter from the association which quoted a story appearing in the New York Amsterdam News of July 20 saying that Barkley had told the Colored National Democratic Association at the mass meeting in Chicago just prior to the Democratic National Convention that "the Anti-lynching bill will be voted upon before Congress adjourned." The NAACP had asked Majority Leader to name the approximate date when the bill would be called up.

Denying that he had made the statement, Senator Barkley told the association in a letter dated August 6: "I have not been any newspapers that quoted what I had to say because I spoke extemporaneously. . .but the quotation which you use in your letter is inaccurate."

Pointing out that he had told his audience that he still "entertained the hope that the bill might be voted on during the present Congress," despite the difficulties of long debate even if cloture were voted, he "made no promise that it would be voted on and I made no promise that it would be taken up. The program of defense legislation, he said, "which include necessary and urgent measures," did not make him "feel at liberty to prophecy when the Anti-lynching bill can be taken up."

Refusing to accept the plea of a defense program as an excuse for not bringing up the bill, Thurgood arshall, special counsel for the NAACP, told Senator Barkley in a letter dated August 7, that the Association regarded the "Anti-Lynching Bill as being" just as important as the National Defense program."

The NAACP official drew attention to the renewed activity of the land in many states its joint activities with the German-American Bund in New Jersey, violence against Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious sect, the brutal flogging and lynching of NAACP officials in Brownsville, Tennessee, and the increase in mob violence throughout the country just as mob violence increased preceding the outbreak of the last World War as fully adequate reasons for bringing up the federal anti-lynching bill without delay.

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NEGRO PRESS, SOUTHERN

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Garner Favors Antilynching Bill For Political Reasons

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Information is seeping through circles close to Vice-President John Nance Garner that the Texan, who is a candidate for the democratic presidential nomination, is in favor of letting the anti-lynch bill come to a vote in the senate.

This is said to be true even though Garner has fought the bill vigorously in former years and though it is certain the measure will be passed if it comes to a vote in the upper chamber. It already has passed the house.

Drew Pearson of the "Merry-Go-Round", widely read column, spilled this information during a visit to Chicago last week. It is not news to colored readers, however, because this paper carried an "off the record" interview with Garner several weeks ago, in which he told an ANP reporter his attitude toward the anti-lynching bill.

Garner's views at that time were that he was willing to let the measure be put upon the statute books because, as he said, the "colored people want it." He insisted that he did not believe in the bill as it is drawn nor in its efficiency. Garner declared he felt the NAACP was pushing the bill because it gave that organization a chance to continue before its membership and the public in the role of saviour of the race."

He said the leadership was sincere that it would develop a bill which southern leaders could support but that the NAACP had been so controversial in the minds of the South that anything it advocated met opposition. Garner declared that a southern senator could be found who would introduce such a measure though he did not explain why he had never done so.

Observers indicate that Garner's present attitude comes about

Had Fought It Previously In the Senate

merely because of his political aspirations. In the interview mentioned above, Garner said he had sought to have Senator "Long Tom" Connally from Texas, one of the chief opponents of the measure, withdraw his opposition and let the bill become a law. He indicated that Connally refused because it was too good election ammunition for his fellow white Texans back home.

Senators May Hold Hearings On Lynchings

Tough Fight On Bill Forecast By Walter White

WASHINGTON, D. C. — "We're going to have a tough fight to pass the Antilynching Bill in the Senate. Whether or not we will win this fight depends almost entirely on the pressure that can be exerted, and exerted at once by the people back home."

This was the statement made by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as a forecast of what is to happen to the Gavagan-Fish Antilynching bill which passed the House on January 10, by a vote of 252 to 131, and has been sent to the Senate.

HEARINGS FORECAST

The NAACP secretary, pointing out what is necessary to be done now, in the fight to pass the bill in the Senate, said he believes that Senator Tom Connally of Texas, an avowed enemy of the bill, will insist on holding hearings.

Although Senator Henry F. Ashurst (D) of Arizona, chairman of the Senate judiciary committee, has not announced the names of members of the sub-committee which will hold hearings, it is understood that Senator Connally will probably be a member of the committee.

Mr. White urged individuals and organizations interested in pushing the passage of the bill through to:

"Write to your Senator and tell him that you want hearings to be held at once, and that you want him to exert his influence to bring this about, and that you urge him to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) if a filibuster is started against the bill."

The NAACP secretary said that the assocaition plans to corral witnesses from many of the southern states and to have them testify, when hearings are held. Many of these witnesses, will come from Texas, the home state of Vice-President Garner, Senator Connally, and Representative Martin Dies.

"These witnesses," he said, "will show that in Texas, which has had more than 500 lynchings to its credit since statistics were first undertaken in 1882, continues to operate as one of the key southern states where denial of civil liberties, leading to lynchings, has been most flagrant."

FUNDS NEEDED

Urging that citizens buy Antilynching buttons, Mr. Whit added: "We need money badly to carry this fight forward. That is why we want to see every one of our 125,000 antilynching buttons sold."

Commenting on the passage of the bill in the House, he said:

"Two things stand out in the passage of the bill in the House. The first is that Representative Joseph Gavagan, who made such a spirited fight two years ago, saw the results of his labor this week.

"There was a mildness about the Southern reaction to the bill, except for the tirades of Rankin of Mississippi and Cox of Georgia, that was absent two years ago. With Representative Gavagan driving forward in his usual hard-hitting manner, the bill went through despite opposition.

"The second important note in the House fight was the appreciation by Representatives of the fact that the colored vote in 1940 is an important balance of power in those states which will have the final say about the presidential election, and that this vote is increasingly intelligent and independent."

DATA REQUESTED

The NAACP secretary made it clear that every effort will be welcomed from throughout the South to supply authentic information about conditions surrounding lynchings and near lynchings in their communities, paritcularly in Texas.

The information should be mailed promptly to The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York. He stressed the importance of drafting the information in the form of signed affidavits, records of court proceedings, and newspaper clippings, in order to assure authenticity.

IS HE BASICALLY IGNORANT OR INHERENTLY SILLY AND DUMB?

The Atlanta Constitution, a leading exponent of race hatred and intolerance, in opposig the Gavagan Anti-lynching Bill now before Congress, quotes Congressman Mitchell of Illinois as saying in debate, that the Negro should no longer be deceived by the Republican Party, and that the race had found out at least who were their real friends, the Democratic Party. The Constitution hasn't enough respect for Mr. spect to refer to him as Congressman Mitchell and called him A. W. Mitchell to refer to him as Congressdoes not represent his race, and the race is ashamed of him. Mitchell's proud boast is, he represents the richest Congressional District in America, composed of white bankers, capitalists and incidentally represent the Negroes in his district; and Negroes living outside of his district are none of his concern. That former Congressman Oscar DePriest made the mistake of representing only Negroes while in Congress, and that he has better sense than to follow Mr. DePriest's nonsense.

The Constitution was careful not to quote the question that Conggressman Hamilton Fish put up to Congressman Mitchell, and Mr. Mitchell's answer thereto, because the question nor the answer did not serve its purpose. Congressman Fish asked Mr Micthell was his race for sale? He replied, every vote in America is for sale conditionally. No man but a fool would have made this evasive answer. The Constitution stands uncompromising for the wholesale disfranchisement of the Negro and the segregation of the races, and does not hesitate to stand upon the housetops and preach its prejudice to the world.

The Atlanta Constitution does not believe in manly, upright Negroes, who demand and fight for their economic, political rights and independence of soul and body; but it believes in the hat in hand type of Negro like Arthur Mitchell, who says "yes, sir, boss," and hasn't sense enough to know that the white man has no more respect for him than he has for the Republican Negro, who stands up and fights for his Constitutional rights. "But what fools we mortals are"? The Constitution possibly has more Negro subsribers than any white daily in the South. Yet, it never writes or carries a line in the defense of the legal rights of its Negro subscribers. Its policy always has been, and is, to parade the Negro's vices and obscure his virtues, and to deprive him of every constitutional right it possibly can. Is a Negro

seeks to rebut a slander against his race, appearing in the columns of The Atlanta Constitution, he is denied that right, his article is returned with the information, we can not publish it. But the columns of The Constitution is wide open at all times for any white man, good or bad, to slander and ridicule the Negro race without qualification. The only time we remember seeing Booker T. Washington's cut on the front page of the Atlanta Constitution was when he was beat up in New York because he had made a mistake in ringing a door bell at the wrong number. The Constitution carried his picture with his head all bandaged up and it was circulated from New York that Mr. Washington had attempted to assault a white woman. President Taft, who was in the White House at this time sent telegrams through the Associated Press to all friends of liberty, protesting against the outrageous charges and expressing his belief in the innocence of the great educator. The Constitution takes our money but grants us no rights or privileges in its columns. Its advertising rates are based upon circulation, as much upon the Negroes's subscription as upon the white subscribers, but the Negro's picture never appears in the columns of The Constitution unless he commits a heinous crime; not even Champion Joe Louis' picture.

Yet the leading Negroes would rather be scandalized in a white daily than to be honored in a Negro newspaper. May we repeat: "What fools we mortals be"? Congressman Mitchell has been in Congress six years more or less, and if he has offered one bill or spoken one word in the defense of his race as such, it missed our eyes. But the race only expected one line of action from the only Negro in Congress, to make a jackass of himself to the delight of his white contemporaries. He is a shining example of the inferior complex the white man alleges against all Negroes, in spite of their wealth, intelligence and acievement. We never have taken our Negro Congressman seriously, because we know his election to Congress was purely an accident.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

NEGRO PRESS, SOUTHERN

Fate Of Antilynch Bill Now Rests With Garner

Vice President Can Steer Measure Through the Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Squarely upon the broad shoulders of John Nance Garner rests the fate of the anti-lynch bill in the senate, once the measure reaches that august body.

Known as one of the shrewdest political manipulators ever to sit in the chair of the president of the senate, Mr. Garner has been credited with defeating more New Deal measures and passing those he approves than any person in the administration.

During an interview with the vice president last spring, this anti-lynch bill was brought to his attention.

Mr. Garner openly expressed his personal opinion of the bill but in further conference said he had tried to persuade some of his fellow Texans to vote for it.

Basing his assumption on the fact that the Democratic party as such had obtained the Negro vote in 1932 and had it again in 1936—it was the vice president's hope to share this bloc for good by passing the legislation that would enable the Democratic party to say, "We gave you the anti-lynching law."

CONNALLY BARRIER BEFORE

Only the stubbornness of Texas' Tom Connally blocked the passage of the anti-lynch bill, for Connally is said to have told Mr. Garner he wouldn't vote for it because he was coming up for reelection that fall and couldn't face his constituents down in Texas if he didn't oppose the bill.

Now Mr. Garner is on the spot. He is anxiously waiting the chance to throw a monkey-wrench into Mr. Roosevelt's political plans and wants to be President of the United States.

When the anti-lynch bill comes before the senate, which course will Mr. Garner take?

Some are inclined to think that he will take an open stand for the bill and through his maneuverings which are among the cleverest political moves into the world, shove the bill through before the filibuster can get started—which Senator Tom Connally again promises.

CAN REMOVE SUSPICION

If he does this he will remove some of the suspicion with which the Negroes in the country regard the would-be candidate yet on the other hand, if he comes out for the bill, he will win the undying enmity of his fellows from his own Southland.

It has been said that Mr. Garner is opposed to any such bill being passed and that his actions last year in the senate supported the weak filibuster the Democrats staged. One noted Republican declared that what the Democrats staged was not a real filibuster, for only one filibuster in ten actually succeeds. There were no night sessions, this speaker pointed out, and if you want to kill a filibuster, force congress into a night session and have your debater on his feet all night long,—no senator wants to spend a night in the Capitol building, said this well known man.

Mr. Garner, it was pointed out, did nothing to stop the thing in its inception, and when the speaker was asked why he didn't do something, he demurred by saying it wasn't his province to take charge of another senator's fight.

AGAINST CLOTURE

Bringing the argument down to the invocation of the cloture rule, which was threatened last year, the cloture rule, in plain language is merely an agreement to vote on a measure at a certain time, which necessarily limits the debate and the time a senator has to speak. Senators are against this rule because the senate is the only body in the world where a representative of the people has the privilege of addressing the body as long as he so desires, or as long as he is able to stand.

Invoking the rule will bring bitter debate on the side before it is passed, and there is little likelihood that it will be passed.

However, Mr. Garner now stands between the devil and the deep blue sea, put on the spot by the very group of people whom he never gave much consideration.

Will Mr. Garner follow the rules of the senate in conducting the anti-lynch-bill through to either triumph or defeat, or will he exhibit some of the characteristics he has often expressed in private conversation with Negro newsmen and enforce the peculiar rules which govern the conduct of affairs in the upper chamber?

Mr. Garner is on the spot.

Anti-Lynching Bill Puts "Cactus Jack" On Spot As Presiding Officer of Senate

Candidate For President Can Pilot Bill Through Dangerous Sea Of Proceedure

May Alienate Former Political Friends

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

NEGRO PRESS, SOUTHERN

6415

House Passes Antilynching Measure By Big Maiority

Atlanta Daily World
1-11-40

Mitchell Charges Republicans "Trying to Buy Back Vote Of Negro" in Heated Discussion

Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON—(SNS)—The Gavagan-Fish anti-lynching measure passed the House of Representatives by 252-to-131 Wednesday, after the partisan row had been stirred by a remark of Representative Arthur Mitchell, Democrat of Illinois, only colored man in Congress, that Republicans were "trying to buy back the Negro vote with the bill."

Mitchell said further that the Republican Party had been "making promises" to the Negro for the last 75 years and was not "discredited" with the race.

The House approved the bill after the representatives had stricken out a provision which would have eliminated from the definition of lynching those crimes of violence occurring in connection with labor disputes.

As in previous years when the House has passed anti-lynching measures, the Senate appeared ready to talk the measure to death. A group of Southern senators, headed by Senator Connally, Democrat of Texas, have announced their intention of blocking the measure if it comes up for consideration there. The Senate last filibustered an anti-lynching bill to death in 1938.

Debate of the anti-lynching measure centered around seesaw discussion of whether the bill was constitutional and necessary.

Proponents of the bill hailed it as insuring rights now denied to Negroes, while the opposition contended it was unconstitutional and claimed that the South already has solved the lynching problem. Under provisions of the bill, peace officers would be given federal fines and imprisoned for failure to stop lynchings.

The Senate approved Wednesday a proposal to create a budget-making committee. The joint committee of 24 members would study President Roosevelt's budget and tax estimates and then make recommendations of its own.

Solons' Vote On Lynch Bill Revealed

DANVILLE, Ill.—(SNS)—For the information of Negro voters in the state of Illinois, we have seccured a record of the Illinois House members' vote in Congress January 10. 1940 on the Gavigan Anti-Lynch Bill. The record is as follows: Voting "yes": Leo E. Allen, R., Galena; Leslie C. Arends,: Melvin; Laurence F. Arnold, D., Newton; James M. Barnes, D., Jacksonville; Harry P. Beam, D., Chicago; Robert B. Chiperfield, R., Canton; Ralph E. Church, R. Evanston; Jessie Sumner, R., Milford; James McAndrews, D Chicago; Raymond S. McKeough, D., Chicago; Joseph C. Martin, D., Salem; Noah M. Mason, R. Oglesby; Arthur W. Mitchell, D. Chicago; Edwin M. Schaefer, D. Belleville; Leonard W. Schuetz, D., Chicago; Everett M. Dirksen R. Perkin; Kent E. Keller, D., Ava; Edward A. Kelly, D., Chicago; Leo Koclalkowski, D., Chicago; Claude V. Parsons, D. Centralia; Chauncey W. Reed, R., W. Chicago; Frank W. [illegible] D. Carlinville.

There were no "nay" votes but the following paired on votes: Anton J. Maciejewski, D., Cicero, for, with Paul H. Maloney, La. Against: Thomas C. Hennings Jr. D., E. St Louis, for the Rene L. Derouen, La, Against; Adolph J. Sabbath, D., Chicago, for, with Joseph J. Mansfield, Texas, against.

General pairs were as follows: William H. Wheat, R. Rantoul with Rueben T. Wood, Mo.; Naton J. Johnson, R., Macomb, with Thomas A. Flaherty, Mass.; T. V Smith, D., Chicago, with August H. Andresen, Minn.

"Paired on votes" represents a rule in congress where any member who might wish to vote "yes" or vice versa on a certain bill scheduled to come up for consideration on a certain day and this member finds that he cannot be present to vote on that day, he goes to the pairing clerk and states that he wishes to vote "for" or "against" the bill as the case is. Then the clerk finds someone on the record that desires to vote the opposite way. The two then are paired, which is reality, does no charge the final count of votes. General pairs, however, differ in that members may not necessarily vote against each other on particular qestions. It is a rule more often used when members who find they cannot be present to vote wish to be read in the record to indicate that they are still in Congress. They are more often paired with their geographical constituency in consideration.

Charges Lynch Bill Buy



In the midst of a quiet session, Representative Arthur W. Mitchell (D.) of Illinois, only Negro member of the house, hurls a charge that the Republican party is "trying to buy back the Negro vote" with the antilynching bill which was passed by the house last Wednesday 252 to 131. Shown with Mr. Mitchell, right, is Representative Joseph Gavagan of New York, sponsor of the antilynching bill, passed by the house previously only to encounter a southern filibuster in the senate.

Southerners Favor Lynch Bill In Poll

GREENVILLE, S. C.,— (ANP)—A poll conducted here to determine the white southerner's reactions to the anti-lynching bill brought some surprising results. While the whites approached agreed that there was need for federal legislation to stamp out lynching, but expressed a preference for state legislation rather than federal. 1-27-40

In general they agreed that they did not favor a filibuster by the southerner senators. Here are some of the opinions expressed:

"I think the sooner the thing is settled and out of the public eye the better it will be."

"If they really want to help the Negro why don't they do something to improve his living condition. For that matter why don't they do something about the poor class of white people?"

"I think the bill is a deliberate bid for the Negro vote.

"Lynchers should be severely punished. It makes no difference whether the federal or state authorities handle it."

"Let congress get it over with and get on to some more important legislation."

Both Sides Are Playing Politics

THE anti-lynching bill has passed the House and now goes to the Senate, where it is destined to be killed by a filibuster, conducted by southern senators.

Most of the southern members of Congress, and many of our southern newspapers assert that the northern and western backers of the bill are not sincere. That their motive is not to put an end to lynching, but to cater to the Negro vote, which is important in the regions of the United States outside the south.

If it is true that the supporters of the bill are playing politics with the Negro vote, it is equally true that the opposers of the bill are playing politics with the southern white vote. Southern members of Congress are not in favor of lynching. They are not so much opposed to Federal laws to improve law and order or other conditions in their states. They have supported Federal laws to build roads in their states and to run down kidnapers, bank robbers and bootleggers. Only recently Federal airplanes were busy ferreting out illicit distilleries in northeastern North Carolina, and upon the evidence thus secured bootleggers have been convicted in the Federal courts.

But a Federal law to afford Negroes equal protection of the law, and to afford them protection of their lives and property against the willful vengeance of mobbists is repugnant to most of the constituents of southern members of Congress. They oppose such a law because they want to keep the good-will and the votes of their constituents.

They should cease to accuse their northern contemporaries of doing exactly the thing that they are doing. If one side is guilty, so is the other.

Anti-Lynching And Defense

The Federal antilynching bill is just as important as the national defense program," Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, has written Senator Barkley, majority leader in the Senate. He refuses to accept the Kentucky senator's virtual plea that the antilynching bill not be offered at this time, for fear it would interfere with that program.

If the N. A. A. C. P. knows how the people of America feel about defense, it would soft pedal any such sentiments as the foregoing from Mr. Marshall, and under no circumstances let the antilynching bill be projected into a legislative situation already overloaded with crucially important defense measures. An overwhelming majority of the American people regard the defense program as more important than anything else, and if the backers of the antilynching bill insist on stalling this country's defense program with extended debate on this bill, popular wrath is apt to end all chance of its enactment, either now or in the future.

This newspaper does not regard a Federal antilynching law as timely today, anyway, in view of the substantial and steady reduction in lynchings achieved by the individual States in the past few years. But even those who advocate the passage of such a law will, in most instances, recognize that it is not comparable in importance to the speedy passage of measures designed to protect this country against attack. By refusing to realize this, the N. A. A. C. P. is playing with political dynamite.

Imagine a filibuster of several weeks over antilynching legislation, at a time when every day counts in building the country's defenses!—Richmond Times Dispatch.

We are not for delaying the national defense program by starting a filibuster on top of the dilatory tactics now going on in the Senate, although we devoutly wish to see something of a permanent nature done about the lynching horror, which makes its own contribution to the undermining of national defense.

If chosen representatives of members of this democracy will filibuster a plan to raise an army in the face of the gravest national peril in our history, they will again filibuster the antilynching bill.

But there is another side to the question. Can this country build adequate defenses while 12,000,000 of its people are exposed to mob murder and there is no workable legal remedy for it?

We do not share the view that there is no longer any need for Federal antilynching legislation because of "substantial and steady reduction in lynchings achieved by the individual states in the past few years." Credit is due the individual states, of course, for the downward trend of lynching, but the most important factor in this development has been the persistent, unyielding pressure upon Congress for the adoption of a Federal law designed to prevent mob violence. Relax this pressure, or remove it altaogether, and there would be a different story to tell.

LYNCHINGS - 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

NEW YORK

6410

Anti-Lynching Bill Gets Detroit City Council Backing

Acts on Request of I. L. D. Spokesman, Urging Senators to Pass Bill; Negro Gathers 2,000 Signatures in City

(Special to the Daily Worker)

DETROIT, Feb. 6.—At its Friday meeting, the Detroit City Council voted support for the Wagner-Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill sending a request to Senators Vandenberg and Prentiss Brown of Michigan urging that they vote for the bill. Catherine Hartely, secretary of the city committee of the International Labor Defense also requested that the Council communicate with Senator Frederick Van Nuys, chairman of a sub-committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, asking that the bill be reported favorably out of committee. The City Council also voted favorably on this request.

A wide movement is sweeping the labor and progressive movement in the city in support of the Anti-Lynching bill. Already 4,000 signatures have been gotten in a short time with one Negro member of the I.L.D. obtaining 2,000 signatures by his own individual efforts.

Plans are under way to send a delegate to Washington this week to appear before the Senate committee hearings on the bill and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with the International Labor Defense is gathering funds to send the delegate.

Albany Asks Congress Pass Anti-Lynch Bill

Half Dozen Resolutions Memorialize Both Houses to Act

ALBANY, Jan. 16 (UP). — The Legislature was asked today to authorize a broad investigation of the State Liquor Authority and remove its chairman, Henry E. Bruckman, for "incompetence."

The action came as a half dozen resolutions were introduced in both Houses, including one memorializing Congress to enact the anti-lynching bill.

Assemblyman Aaron F. Goldstein, Brooklyn Democrat, terming the liquor authority "autocratic and dictatorial," introduced a bill to transfer its functions to the police department and a resolution to investigate the entire system of alcoholic control.

He called for demoval of Bruckman from his $12,000 post because "his attitude of haughtintss, disrespect and impertinence smacks of czarism and dictatorship."

Resolutions approving the federal anti-lynching bill were introduced by Assemblymen William T. Andrews, New York Democrat and Robert Crews, Brooklyn Republican.

"Such legislation is urgently needed to restore to the people of this state and of the states where mob violence continues to break our respect for law and order," the resolution said.

ILD Urges Wires To Senators on Anti-Lynch Bill

Warns of Serious Danger of Senate Filibuster; Calls for Immediate Nation-Wide Drive To Force Quick Passage

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 16.—Calling for a nation-wide campaign to save the Wagner-Gavagan anti-lynch bill which passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 251 to 133 on Jan. 10, the I.L.D. today called for quick action directed towards members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to which the measure has now moved.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are:

Henry F. Ashurst, Dem., Ariz.
Matthew M. Neely, Dem., W. Va.
Frederick Van Nuys, Dem., Ind.
Carl A. Hatch, Dem., N. M.
Key Pittman, Dem., Nev.
Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Dem., Mont.
John E. Miller, Dem., Ark.
George W. Norris, Ind., Neb.
John A. Danaher, Rep., Conn.
William H. King, Dem., Utah
Pat McCarran, Dem., Nev.
M. M. Logan, Dem., Ky.
Edward R. Burke, Dem., Neb.
Tom Connally, Dem., Tex.
James H. Hughes, Dem., Del.
William E. Borah, Rep., Idaho
Warren R. Austin, Rep., Vt.
Alexander Wiley, Rep., Wis.

"The first job of the enemies of lynching is to persuade these members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to take quick and proper action on the bill," the Washington Bureau of the I.L.D. pointed out.

"Those organizations and persons whose Senators are on the Committee, should address them, and Senator Ashurst, chairman, besides. Persons from other states should address Senator Ashurst as chairman. The chances are good that the bill will be reported out of the Judiciary Committee quickly. But if it fails to come out by the 15th or 16th, it will be a serious danger signal, and all the heat possible will have to be turned on with the utmost rapidity. The next job will be to insure its passage and break down the threatened filibuster of the lynch-Senators."

The I.L.D. Washington Bureau states that several courses of action to prevent passage of the bill in the Senate are now under consideration by its enemies:

1. The filibuster method by which passage was prevented in 1937.

2. Threat of filibuster to prevent action of any kind on the floor.

3. Immediately the Bill is reported out of the Judiciary Committee, it will become necessary to urge all Senators to invoke "cloture" which limits debate on a bill and breaks a filibuster. Refusal of the Republican minority to join with the Democrats who supported the anti-lynch bill, in 1937, to invoke "cloture," was responsible for the success of the filibuster at that time. This action also provided an "out" for the administration supporters whose sincerity in demanding an end to the filibuster and passage of the bill was never tested.

4. Numerous possible "appeasement" moves which would have the effect of preventing passage of the anti-lynch bill, or the sake of "unity" behind a war-program also lurk in the offing, and should be watched.

"The vote in the House is significant of the tremendous demand of the people of the country that an end be put to the bestial practice of lynching," the I.L.D. call read, "and of the growing realization that unity of Negro and white is an essential to progress.

"It is not necessarily indicative, however, of any principle whatsoever in the minds of the majority of Congressmen who passed the bill. The nation-wide sentiment for the anti-lynch bill was emphasized by public action. Many Congressmen reportedly voted for the bill in order to reap political benefits from its passage, but with a secret hope that it would be killed in the Senate.

"The fact that the House readily scrapped the sentence in the bill which provided a safeguard against misuse of the measure against labor is a pretty good indication of the 'principle' of many of the members in regard to civil rights."

White Dallas Lawyer Blasts Connally, Demands Anti-Lunching Bill Be Passed

Negro Worker's Letter Describes Brutal Oppression

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 25.—Blasting the absurd arguments offered by the reactionary Senators of the South in opposing the passage of the anti-lynching bill, James Davis, a prominent white lawyer of Dallas, Texas, who has always voted for Tom Connally, declared last week in a long letter to Sen. Connally that the old arguments against the bill can no longer hold water.

In his letter, a copy of which was sent to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Davis wrote, "as long as there is the instance only where the mob takes charge, there is a crying need for the anti-lynching bill. The life and liberty of the individual, to him and from his standpoint, are worth as much to such an individual as the life and liberty of the 130,000,000 inhabitants of the United States."

Additional proof, if such were needed, for the immediate passage of the anti-lynching bill, is contained in a letter from a Negro worker in Louisiana and addressed to the NAACP.

CONNALLY BLASTED

This letter gives the lie to Sen Thomas Connally, chief filibuster who has said that he will bring witnesses from Texas to Washington to prove that there is no need for passing the bill. The full text of the letter follows:

"I am writing this in behalf of the Anti-Lynching Bill. I was reading in the paper where they was trying to get it through the Senate. I am praying this Anti-Lynching Bill will pass because it's the only help the Negro have to develop himself to the high stage of life in the South.

"I was reading in the paper where a Senator in the South was saying that he was going to bring some colored people to prove that we don't need an Anti-Lynching Bill in the South, but God knows that we need a bill like that in the South because we have no rights at all. They kill us like a chicken raiser kill his chicken, when he get ready. They do us the same way down here in the South."

Meanwhile, with hearings on the bill scheduled to end March 5, the NAACP has just sent out a call urging all organizations and individuals to write letters to their Senators calling upon them to vote for cloture (limitation of debate) in order to preclude a filibuster against the bill.

Negro Leaders Prepare Congress

Thousand of Negroes to Lobby House, Senate in Support of Anti-Lynching Bill During Session Of Nat'l. Negro Congress in April

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—A. Philip Randolph, president of the National Negro Congress, and other national leaders of the organization are here this week laying plans and making preparations for the Third National Negro Congress which will be held in the huge auditorium of the United States Department of Labor on April 26, 27 and 28.

Randolph conferred with John P. Davis, national secretary of the Congress; U. Simpson Tate, national treasurer; and with Rev. Arthur D. Gray, president of the Washington Council of the Congress which will act as host to the convention.

A huge lobby of thousands of Negro delegates from all parts of the country are among the plans being laid. The delegates, in a body will visit members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives in behalf of the anti-lynching bill and other measures vital to the interests of the Negro and white people.

CHOOSE HISTORIC MONTH

Delegates from Negro communities throughout the nation will also present federal authorities with demands on the problems of health, housing, jobs and education.

Other national leaders of the Congress who have been in Washington to assist in preparation for the Congress include Edward E. Strong, national youth chairman from Birmingham, Alabama, and Dr. Max Yergan, a member of the national executive board of the organization.

Calls for the Congress were mailed this week to thousands of organizations throughout the United States.

April was chosen for the month of the Congress because, as the Call states, "the month of April in Washington is a symbol of freedom to the Negro people. For in this month in 1862 slavery was forever abolished in the nation's Capital. Washington is at the very heart of America. It is fitting that the combined voice of the Negro people should be heard in the highest forum of our land."

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

It is extremely difficult to understand why so much of the agitation for an anti-lynching bill has ceased or taken the form of low rumblings that do not get to the ear of the people.

Certainly it is hardly possible that there are groups among us who believe that an Anti-lynching Bill will come through of itself. Every indication points to the senate shelving the matter unless some real dramatic efforts are made in behalf of the bill.

We should also see clearly that a weakening on our part, where the bill to stop lynching is concerned, weakens the efforts made to pass the Geyer bill to eliminate the un-American poll tax law.

The outcries for both these bills should reach a new hgh note. Now is the time when the Negro people must advance their democratic demands. Now is the time when the rejection of democracy to Negroes exposes the hypocrisy of those who declare themselves so loudly for democracy and peace.

The anti-lynching bill is the child of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. We hope the child will not be neglected. If it is, it assuredly must be adopted by the churches, other civic organiaztions and particularly by the Negro women's organizations.

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W. Asheville, N. C., News
January 12, 1940

THAT ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AGAIN

It is to be regretted that the anti-lynching bill has again risen its ugly head in the halls of Congress. If such a measure were necessary, it might be a different matter; but it isn't. There were only three lynchings in the country last year—the best showing since someone began compiling records more than a half century ago. Some idea of how fast we have gone along the right road may be gained from the fact that in the early 1890's we had 231 illegal killings in one year. Thus, we can see that though the evil to some extent still exists the problem is no longer a pressing one.

To have such a proposal re-flaunted in the face of one particular section of the country—and that's what it amounts to—is tantamount to an insult to the Southern states.

Reviving the issue cannot be very contributory to harmony so sorely needed by the national legislators as they set about their task in attempting to solve in the short time left to them the more urgent problems facing the country.

Scotland Neck, N.C. Commonwealth
January 12, 1940

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL UP AGAIN

Once again an effort is being made by determined hotheads in congress to saddle the nation with an anti lynching bill. It is frankly admitted that this is a blow at the South, though statistics will reveal that other sections of the nation have had from time to time lynchings equally as horrible as any which ever occurred in the South.

However, this is beside the point. The real question at issue is this: Is there any need for a federal anti-lynching law with drastic penalties in view of the present attitude of the South toward such acts?

We answer that question by saying that there is most decidedly no need for such a law. Law-abiding Southerners have been dealing with this problem for years and they have made progress. The records of Tuskegee Institute, a negro educational center, show that lynchings have declined from 231 in 1892 to six in 1938, and three in 1939. Further than that, where many lynchings went unpunished in the past there is a very determined body of public opinion which is forcing adequate punishment for all lynchers in the South when they are apprehended. These figures indicate clearly that the South is handling the problem, and no federal police law is necessary.

Those who are pressing for passage of such a measure for the most part represent New York in Congress. If they are really in earnest about elimination of crime, perhaps they had better devote their efforts to legislation which will break up rackets in New York whereby poor folks are being robbed, and gangster slayings which occur in large numbers in New York and other northern cities.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
January 10, 1940

LYNCHING ON THE DECLINE

Southern representatives and senators are being called on again to fight the anti-lynching bill which is before Congress again. It is a vicious and indefensible bill and has no place there. It is brought up solely and only for the purpose of embarrassing congressmen. It puts them on record for the benefit of the large Negro vote in some states. Enemies of the South and of Southern congressmen like to alienate the Negro vote in the larger Negro centers in the North, so they are bringing up this anti-lynching measure just to see who would vote for it and who would vote against it.

There is no reason for any such legislation. The South is taking care of the lynching evil as fast as education and enlightenment will permit. There were only three lynchings last year. Compare that small number with the large number who were lynched 10 and 15 years ago.

We do not condone lynching in the South. We deplore it and we are doing all that can be done to stop it. This Federal anti-lynching law will not stop it any more effectively than sentiment is now checking it. As people become more educated and more informed as to the evils of lynching and of the odium which attaches to every community which permits a lynching, there will be less and less. Southern sheriffs and police officers are doing more and better work every year toward stopping mobs. The people of the South are doing something about it. If they were not aroused over the evils of lynching, there might be some justification for this Gavagan law, but the record over the years shows that the people are beginning to do something about the lynching problem. There were only three lynchings last year according to figures released by the authorities at Tuskeege Institute. Look how the record has gone down in the past few years. Here is the record:

231 in 1892.
158 in 1897.
130 in 1901.
97 in 1908.
80 in 1919.
30 in 1926.
28 in 1933.
20 in 1935.
8 in 1936.
8 in 1937.
6 in 1938.

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald
January 15, 1940

ANTI-LYNCH LAW

The fact that lynchings in the United States have decreased over a period of years until they reached the all-time low of three last year lends credence to the charge that those who are pushing the anti-lynch legislation in congress are concerned more with politics than with humanity.

Three lynchings are bad enough. We won't be satisfied until there is none. But it seems to us that congress could find more pressing problems upon which to exert its effort than an anti-lynch law of doubtful value and inspired by more doubtful motives.

The MORNING HERALD, with other newspapers of the south, feels that lynchings should be tolerated on no account, and that every effort should be made to stamp out such instances of mob violence.

But it doubts the effectiveness and the need of a federal anti-lynch law. It would seem that the best insurance against lynch law is an enlightened public opinion, cognizant of the brutality and injustice of lynchings, and vigorous in its condemnation of the element which makes up lynch mobs.

The controversy over the anti-lynch legislation has encouraged and spread this public enlightenment. By bringing the problem squarely before the people of all sections, it has done much to discourage the lynch evil.

We believe that this has been and will be the chief value of this legislation.

Statesville, N. C. Daily
January 11, 1940

A Double Purpose.

The Cavagan anti-lynching bill is engaging the attention of Congress again. Previously passed by the House only to encounter a Southern filibuster in the Senate, the measure would seek to curb lynching by imposing penalties upon peace officers who fail to protect prisoners from lynch-mobs and by making municipalities or counties liable for damage suits by lynching victims or their dependents.

Representative Mitchell, Negro member of the House from Illinois, declares that the Republican party "is trying to buy back the Negro vote" by pressing for the enactment of the Cavagan bill. That is probably true as far as it goes. But Representative Mitchell could safely add a long list of Northern Democrats who want to hang onto the Negro vote to save their own political hides, now joining hands with the Republicans, not particularly to bring about the enactment of this legislation, but to enhance their own prestige among the Negro voters in their districts.

This paper has held all along that if nothing short of federal legislation gives promise of stopping mob-law, then let's have it, no matter if it is directed mainly at the South and is most humiliating here. But the records show an improvement that makes an anti-lynch law far from necessary at this time.

Whether it is because the threat of this legislation brought an unusual restraint of hot tempers, the fact remains that there were only three lynchings in the South last year, a record low that has been approached gradually for several years. True that is three too many, but it shows that we are headed away from this barbarism, and that we could well be left alone in our progress.

This improvement comes partly through education and straight-thinking that has created the public demand that enforcement officials stand up to the rack and measure up to their responsibilities. Mobsters have sensed the fact that these officials are so fortified by public approval that they actually would be able to recognize some of the offenders if they got among them—and that would be just too bad.

The Gavagan bill will again be filibustered from its purpose by Senate, and this time with more justification than before. But pressing for the legislation will accomplish the political purpose that it was intended to serve.

Charlotte N. C. Observer
January 12, 1940

THE FILIBUSTER TO THE FORE.

Perhaps Representative RANKIN, of Mississippi, went a bit too far in asserting that the anti-lynching bill which has just passed the House is nothing more than "a renewal of a vicious attack on the white people of the Southern states", but, even so, it is a measure which, in the considered and reasoned judgment of this newspaper, is unnecessary in order to meet the menace of mob rule in our section of the country.

The fact, however, that the House has accepted this legislation does not mean that it is to become the law of the land.

Southern Senators are set to stage their customary filibuster in order to defeat it. They have prevented this legislation in previous sessions by this method and they express no doubt as to their ability to put it to sleep again under their soporific and protracted siege of talking.

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Albemarle, N. C. News & Press
January 12, 1940

LYNCHING

One of the first bills which is to be considered by the Congress now in session is the anti-lynching bill which would make lynching a federal crime. In addition it would impose a $5,000 fine on the peace officers who permitted the lynching to take place; and counties would be responsible for a payment of $2,000 to $10,000 to the family of the person who had been lynched.

The bill was introduced by a New York representative, and has been the source already of some bitter debate in past sessions of Congress. As is to be expected, Southern Congressmen are opposing the bill while Congressmen from other sections of the nation favor it.

We can understand why Southerners might oppose the bill, for they feel that it is taking some of their state rights away from them. They know that if a lynching does take place, when the federal officers start out on the case, some of the lynchers will go to prison, just as the FBI has driven many of the gangsters from the land.

So far as we are concerned, we see no great objection to the bill. We realize that situations can and may arise when many of the best citizens of the county could be aroused to such a point that they would gladly join a lynching party. However, that would be man at his worst, and certainly the normal processes of the law should inflict the proper punishment, sufficient to take care of the revengeful spirit, which forms the basis for the lynching.

If a federal law will reduce the number of lynchings, the South, which bears the lynching stigma more than any other part of the nation, can least afford to oppose the law.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 10, 1940

BETWEEN THE ARGUING GROUPS.

The essentially sectional debate which is characterizing reconsideration of the anti-lynching bill in Congress, just as it has characterized every other consideration of similar proposals, emphasizes the transcending political aspects of the measure in question.

It must be patent that the politics is not all on one side. The authors and proponents of the Gavagan bill are undoubtedly actuated by political motives in their projection and, more particularly, in their forced attention to the legislation at this time. In this connection, however, it should be remembered that anti-lynching acts have been before Congress for an indefinite period and that this particular measure was carried over from a preceding session.

If, though, proponents are actuated by politics, opponents, as a perusal of their arguments and a knowledge of their background will convince the unbiased, are not without similar motivation. It is good politics, its means votes—or so they think—to combat such legislation; so good in fact that many of them missed Jackson day dinners in their respective states, where the fence-building is looked upon as especially good, to get in on the negative side of the congressional argument.

The Daily News proposes to be realistic. The south has made great progress in stamping out the lynching evil; there has been a steady decline to a new low level of only three mobbings last year Education, aroused public opinion and, mayhaps, the very fact that federal anti-lynching legislation is under consideration by the Congress, have led to vigorous preventive measures by law enforcement agencies who are themselves a part of the southern political structure. It is quite possible that the Gavagan bill is not a properly drawn measure and that its provisions and its approach need revision. But there is this reality that cannot be brushed aside by oratorical waves or political emotionalism: In lynchings which do occur, mobsters are not apprehended or punished for their violation of just about every guarantee in the constitution and there is not much prospect that they ever will be, short of federal intervention. In their off-the-record moments even the opposing political groups might frankly consider the desirability of all the anti-lynching insurance that can be written.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 8, 1940

DELEGATION SUPPORT OF LYNCH LAW ASKED

Humphreys Releases Resolution On Bill.

Support of the federal anti-lynching bill to appear before the senate today was incorporated in the resolution passed by the North Carolina League for Progressive Democracy in recent session and released yesterday by Judge Ira R. Humphreys, of Reidsville, chairman of the league's committee on legislation.

Judge Humphreys stated that "a majority of North Carolina newspapers and a great majority of North Carolina citizens are in support of the bill". The resolution follows:

"The ghastly crime of lynching has cost well over 5,000 lives in this country since 1882; lynching is an instrument of terror used in the exploitation of both negro and white workers and farmers; the states have demonstrated their inability or unwillingness to cope with the problem alone, and have thereby shown the necessity for federal aid in stamping out these bloody outrages. Therefore be it resolved that the N. C. L. P. D. urges that the 11 Congressmen and two senators from this state vote in favor of the federal anti-lynching bill."

Wilson, N. C., Daily Times
January 10, 1940

CONTENTION OVER CONSTITUTIONALITY ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Gavagan Anti-Lynching Legislation Edges Toward House Passage As Plea Is Heard Against "Opening Wounds" of Sectionalism.

Washington, Jan. 10. — (AP) — Contention over constitutionality of the legislation and a plea against "opening the wounds" of sectionalism edged the Gavagan anti-lynching bill toward house passage today.

"It's a worse crime than kidnapping," Representative Fish, Republican, New York, asserted, telling his colleagues opponents had created "a myth" by saying the bill to curb mob law was unconstitutional.

Fish contended there were numerous precedents for the Gavagan measure which would impose penalties on law officers who failed to prevent lynchings and also on political sub-divisions where lynchings occurred.

Representative Cannon, Democrat, Missouri, speaking in opposition to the bill, declared, "It proposes an elaborate solution of a problem already solved."

Cannon pleaded with the house "not to tear open those old wounds which have been closed for years."

After a few hours more of debate during which members will get a chance to amend a vote was to come on final passage. House victory for the measure was a foregone conclusion, but southern senators dusted out a pigeon-hole for the bill in their end of the capitol.

As Congress settled down to work in earnest the senate and numerous committees were busy.

In the senate Senator Adams, Democrat, Colorado, asserted that President Roosevelt had "outsmarted" Congress when he made up his reduced budget, submitted last week, by trimming items "which are very dear to the heart of congressmen."

The house received the session's first money bill from its appropriations committee. The measure provides $267,197,908 for the army, navy, coast guard and federal bureau of investigation to use during the next six months in strengthening neutrality and defense protection.

Admiral Harold Stark, naval operations chief, told the house naval affairs committee in response to questions that "a coalition of various world powers against the western hemisphere was considered a possibility" by the navy.

Reidsville, N. C. Review
January 10, 1940

Negro Solon Joins In Fight Against Anti-Lynching Bill

Washington, Jan. 10.—The House heard its only Negro member, Representative Mitchell (D), Ill., hotly charge the Republican party with "trying to buy back the Negro vote" with the pending anti-lynching bill.

His accusation, in the midst of a quiet, almost perfunctory renewal of a controversy that recurs in every Congress, started something. Several Republicans sought recognition to express their resentment and Representative Fish (R), N. Y., caustically inquired whether the Negro vote was for sale.

"Every vote in the United States is for sale," Mitchell answered. "Not for money, but for rights and justice."

Representative McDowell (R), Pa., accused Mitchell, ardent proponent of the bill, of trying to alienate the Republicans from its support but asserted that 98 per cent of his party colleagues would vote for it.

Representative Gavagan (R), N. Y., author of the bill, announced that he planned to eliminate a section specifically exempting killings in the course of labor disputes.

Asheville, N. C. Herald
January 11, 1940

Negro Lawmaker Who Caused Strife To Speak, M'boro

Representative Mitchell Caused Excitement Over Anti-Lynching Bill

Representative Arthur Mitchell, only colored U. S. representative, who caused an uproar in Congress Tuesday, will speak in the Murfreesboro Negro Baptist church on Sunday night, January 14.

Mitchell, Democrat from the 6th District of Chicago, provoked the uproar in Washington by charging the Republican party with "trying to buy back the Negro vote" with the pending anti-lynching bill. Representative Hamilton Fish asked if the Negro vote was for sale. "Every vote in the United States is for sale," Mitchell answered. "Not for money, but for rights and justice."

The Negro lawmaker was accused of trying to alienate Republican support of the bill, but Republicans said they would support it anyway. Mitchell was said to favor the bill.

The anti-lynching bill has caused much debate in Congress, passed by the House on one occasion, only to encounter a filibuster by Southern members in the Senate.

The bill would seek to curb lynching by placing penalties on officers who fail to protect prisoners from lynch-mobs, and by making municipalities and counties liable to damage suits by lynch victims or their dependents

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 17, 1940

HOEY DENOUNCES ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Governor Terms Pending Measure 'Wholly Unnecessary and Undesirable'

The Wagner anti-lynching bill was denounced yesterday by Governor Hoey as "a vicious piece of legislation and wholly unnecessary and undesirable."

His views were expressed in a letter to Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee, who wrote the Governor asking his opinions on the measure.

Hoey, asserting he was speaking as an American citizen and not merely as a Southerner, said he was "definitely opposed" to the bill, and added that a Federal anti-lynching law would be a "source of irritation rather than help."

"The people of North Carolina," he declared, "have always been and still are opposed to this bill."

Cites Progress Made.

The Governor pointed out that the number of lynchings in the United States had been reduced from 211 in 1901 to three last year. He said it would be absurd for the government to intervene with the states "when they are making such definite progress and overcoming this crime with greater success than any other of the more serious crimes."

"North Carolina has gone many years without a lynching," his letter continued. "During my administration and that of my predecessors, for many years, every effort has been made to protect every citizen of the State—white, Negro, Indian or foreigner—and no matter how shocking the crime, every resource of the State has been requisitioned to protect and defend the culprit, and to see that he was given a fair and impartial trial.

Says Protection Afforded.

"We have fine relationship between the races in this State, and every law enforcement officer of the State and every sheriff and official of the counties are in thorough accord with the idea of giving full protection to every citizen and going to the limit to prevent lynchings."

The anti-lynching bill is pending before the Senate. The Governor said he hoped that body would "see the wisdom of not interfering with a situation that is developing most satisfactorily in the interest of law and order."

White Farmer Sentenced In Attack Case

Convicted 3-23-40

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., Mar. 21 —Charged with criminally assaulting a 16-year-old girl, Mary Poole, after persuading her on the pretext of employing her as a nurse for his wife, to leave her home and accompany him in his car, J. H. Davis, white farmer, was convicted here Tuesday of the lesser offense of attempted assault, and given a prison sentence of 15 years.

Davis was charged in the indictment returned against him of actual commission of the assault but when his case was called for trial, he entered a plea of guilty of attempted assault, which the State agreed to accept.

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St. George, S. C., Eagle
January 11, 1940

Press Clippings

NO NEED FOR ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

Dispatch News:

We see from Monday's daily papers that the anti-lynching bill will likely come before congress, which will convene Wednesday, early in the session. This bill has been bobbing up in the national legislative body at every session for some time now. When it came to a vote at the last regular session it was filibustered to death in the senate.

If action on the measure continues to be balked by southerners, and the lynching record in the south continues to improve as it has during the past few years the backers of the bill will have to admit there is no real need for such legislation and call off their dogs.

The annual report which has just been released by the Tuskegee Institute shows that only three lynchings occurred during the year 1939, this being three less than in the year 1938, five less than in 1937 and in 1936, and seventeen less than the year 1935. The lynchings which occurred were listed as two in Florida and one in Mississippi. Another fact to consider in this year's record also is that one of the three who were lynched, was a white man.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
January 13, 1940

Talk Loud, Won't Fight

Opposing the Lynching Bill Representative Rankin of Mississippi "asserted that the measure was nothing but the renewal of a vicious attack on the white people of the Southern states'," coming "not from the Republicans but from the Democrats."

Representative Rankin is a leader in the house. He has been a lieutenant of President Roosevelt who could kill this bill with a word which he does not utter.

The News and Courier predicts that Representative Rankin will loyally support the Democratic party that makes a "vicious attack on the white people of the South" and that congressmen of South Carolina will, however they vote against this bill, accept the leadership and domination of the party of open hostility to the Southern white people.

Were the Mississippians and the South Carolinians to offer independent tickets for presidential electors the Northern "Democrats" would run to cover.

The vicious attack on the Southern white people is renewed because Gavaghan, Guffey, Wagner and the rest believe that the Southerners won't fight, that they can be bought and kept bought with offices and allotments.

The News and Courier holds the Gavaghans, the Guffeys, the Wagners in greater respect than it holds the Southern leaders who talk loud and won't fight.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
January 14, 1940

Votes on the Lynching Bill

In the national house of representatives the six members from South Carolina voted against the Gavagan bill, as did all Southern members, Mr. Maverick, the Texas "Liberal," having been defeated for congress, (Mr. Gavagan represents the negro district of Harlem, New York.) The bill is one to instigate the lynching of negroes, to fire the ruffian heart, whether it be so intended or not. This is election year, and the negro Democratic vote in the great Northern cities is highly important to the election of congressmen, Democrats and Republicans, as well as to the election of the president. The bill could be killed with a word by President Roosevelt, and he does not utter it.

Among Northern and Western representatives who voted against the bill were Messrs. Allen of Pennsylvania, Ball of Connecticut, Coffee of Nebraska, Cole of New York, Hoffman of Michigan, Lewis of Colorado, Murdock of Arizona Murdock of Utah, White of Idaho and of course James Wadsworth, Jr., of New York. There may have been two or thre others.

Representative Mitchell, Democrat, colored, voted for the bill, and the house passed the bill by a vote of 252 to 131.

It is not generally believed that the passage of the bill will prevent the Southern Democrats from lining up with the Harlem Democrats and those of Arthur Mitchell's district in Chicago.

Greenwood, S C Index-Journal
January 10, 1940

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The bill to take away from the States their police power, better known as the anti-lynching bill, is being debated by the House of Representatives.

This bill was introduced by Congressman Gavagan, Democrat and white, from the Harlem district of New York City. His district is overwhelmingly colored. The bill is backed by most of the Negro leaders of the North and East.

This bill will not stop lynching. If enacted into law it will bring a lot of trouble of many kinds.

There were only three lynchings in the United States last year. That was three more than we should have had.

But this is the best showing made in seventy-five years.

The only hope of killing this dangerous bill lies in Senate action.

President Roosevelt has never expressed publicly any opinion on it one way or the other.

Greenwood, S C Index Journal
January 11, 1940

TELLING THE TRUTH

The Republicans in the national House of Representatives are charging the Democrats with backing the anti-lynching bill for the plain and simple purpose of "buying the Negro vote in the North."

The Democrats in the national House of Representatives have answered by charging the Republicans with backing the anti-lynching bill for the plain and simple purpose of "buying the Negro vote in the North."

Again is apropos the true incident in Georgia political history. Two candidates for governor of Georgia accused each other of lying on the other.

A cynical editor commented on the double charge in this fashion: "For once the two gentlemen are telling the truth."

Columbia, S C Record
January 16, 1940

Dangerous.

For political purposes the Northern Democrats and Republicans have taken up the federal anti-lynching law which passed by the house now goes to the senate.

They may be proposing to encourage rather than discourage lynching. Without the enactment of the anti-lynching law the number of lynchings was reduced last year to three, a reduction of 96 per cent below the lynching average for the 58 years that records have been kept.

Why then turn away from the system that seems to be working to an untried plan which, whether rightly or wrongly doesn't matter, seems to provoke passion and prejudice, which are the elements of the lynching spirit?

Gaffney, S. C. Ledger
February 15, 1940

SAYS LYNCH LAW MAY INCREASE PREJUDICE

Maybank Says South Opposes Federal Interference in Rights.

Columbia, Feb. 12.—Governor Burnet R. Maybank asserted today that if the anti-lynching bill before Congress should become law, it "might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists."

In a letter replying to one from Congressman Kenneth McKellar requesting his views on the proposal, the governor said that "the situation in the South, according to statistics that you cite and as everyone knows, has improved remarkably year by year, and I want to assure you as governor of South Carolina, and I believe that I speak for the law enforcement officers, that it is their desire to use every means at their command not only to stamp out lynching but to arrest and convict any of those who might be guilty.

"As you know, the South, and I might say particularly South Carolina, abhors the thought of federal interference in states' rights, in so far as police powers are concerned."

Maybank expressed the belief that the bill's enactment "would do far more harm than good because once the federal government assumes responsibility in this field, local officers would not be as alert and would be more inclined to let Washington do it, and, in my opinion, Washington would not be nearly as efficient in the enforcement of these laws as local law enforcement officers, who know the people of their section."

He said that should the federal government atetmpt to try state officials in the federal courts, he believed "there would be a severe reaction."

"The law, therefore, might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists," Maybank said.

Columbia, S C Record
February 13, 1940

Maybank Opposes Anti-Lynch Bill

The enactment of the anti-lynch bill into law would "do more harm than good," Gov. Burnet R. Maybank says in a letter replying to an inquiry from Rep. Kenneth McKellar. McKellar asks for the governor's views on this subject.

"As you know," Maybank wrote, "the south, and I might say particularly South Carolina, abhors the though of federal interference in states' rights in so far as police powers are concerned."

McKellar had given figures in his letter to the governor, and in replying Mr. Maybank said: "The situation in the south, according to statistics that you cite, and as everyone knows, has improved remarkably year by year, and I want to assure you, that as governor of South Carolina—and I believe I speak for the law-enforcement officers—that it is their desire to use every means at their command not only to stamp out lynching, but to arrest and convict any of those who might be guilty."

The reason such a law would do more harm than good, the governor wrote, is "because once the federal government assumes responsibility in this field, local authorities would not be as alert and would be more inclined to let Washington do it, and, in my opinion, Washington would not be nearly as efficient in the enforcement of these laws as the local law-enforcement officers, who know the people of their section."

Mr. Maybank closed by saying: "The law, therefore, might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists."

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, S C State
January 8, 1940

IT IS A SYMBOL.

The so-called anti-lynching bill is coming up again in senate and house, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has done energetic spade work for its support. Several days ago the association claimed nearly 150 congressional votes already promised. The bill comes up after a year in which only three killings, classified as lynchings, occurred. Obviously, therefore, it is not merely an anti-lynching bill.

If the number of lynchings were increasing there might be some straight reason for federal action to curb the hideous activity; but the number of lynchings becomes smaller and smaller as years pass, until now it stands at three. That constitutes an amazingly good record, when one recalls all the background facts including racial prejudices which, if not natural, are at least a part of folk emotions.

The anti-lynching bill is now a symbol of something, not a bone fide legislative attempt to prevent lynchings. It is a symbol of the decent public detestation of lynching—and of hooded night riding, too. It also is a symbol of the rising political strength of the Negro race.

For Negro leaders to support the bill is both understandable and natural because of what it stands for in their minds and emotions. The lynching of a Negro is, to the Negro race, a horrible insult to the race itself. The white race, being in control, does not suffer correspondingly when a white man is lynched. The State, therefore, can find no reason to condemn Negro leaders for their support of the bill. Probably the leaders of any other minority, similarly placed, would do the same thing. The question involves judgment rather than motives.

When examined in coolness, it is easy to see that the anti-lynching bill is in opposition to local self-government, therefore to a democratic principle. The general government should step in only when local government has failed persistently—and in the control of lynching local government is making good But the symbolism of the bill, plus its political potency in some states, has blinded its supporters to its governmental implications, or made them indifferent to them.

The State thinks the bill unwise, unnecessary, and unfortunate. But The State will not resign from the human race, nor from the white race, nor from American or South Carolina citizenship no matter what the congress does with this political-emotional-symbolical and embarrassing measure.

Newberry, S. C. Observer
January 9, 1940

THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL

The stage is all set for the introduction of the anti-lynching bill, and southern members will naturally oppose the bill as they have been doing. The best argument against the bill this year is the new record for lynchings that was made during the year 1939, when only three lynchings occurred. The introduction of the bill just after a record year as 1939 proves that there is more behind the bill than merely the idea of putting an end to lynchings.

Greenville, S C News
January 12, 1940

THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

As was generally expected, the Gavagan "anti-lynching" bill—whose "political" motives are now so obvious that we do not believe anyone seriously attempts to deny them—has passed the national House by a heavy majority.

Democrats and Republicans of Northern and Eastern states, where the negro vote is a substantial factor, joined in supporting the bill under which there would be a federal government crack-down on local officers of the law where a lynching occurred.

It is a bit difficult to see why the masses of the negro voters in these northern centers should attach such vast importance to this bill, since it is very obvious that lynchings have been steadily declining and there is every evidence of an increasing determination on the part of state and local authorities to discourage and prevent lynchings and to punish lynchers. The fact probably is that certain professional "leaders" of the negro race in those parts have made much of such measures as a political objective, and politicians of these districts have not been slow to sense the opportunity to advance their own political fortunes by adopting a similar line of talk.

These members of the House have now maintained themselves in the favor of their negro constituents; and having done that, we dare say it is probably not a matter of great moment to them whether or not the Senate allows the bill to become law. Indeed, it might suit some of them better if the Senate refuses, since they can take the hustings this summer with more political breast-beating, and so corral the votes once more on their impassioned declamations of undying determination to get "justice" for the colored race!

Now that these members of the House have got through with this political chore and maintained their standing with their colored constituents, perhaps the House can get down to the important business of the session. The Senate will be in no hurry whatever to bring the bill to the floor; the prospects seem to be that as usual it will lie around a committee room for quite a long time, and in the meantime Congress can devote its thought to matters that really mean something to the welfare of the country.

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo
January 10, 1940

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL UNNECESSARY

The so-called anti-lynching bill is before Congress again, despite the fact that lynchings have all but vanished from the United States.

In 1939, according to the records kept by Tuskeegee Institute, only three lynchings occurred in the United States. These, we hasten to state, are too many but, compared to lynchings twenty and thirty years ago, indicate that great progress has been made in eradicating the disgraceful custom of small groups of citizens taking the law in their own hands.

Of course, everybody knows that the anti-lynching bill is a political proposition, closely tied-up with the Negro vote in certain States of the Union. So far as we are concerned we are against lynching and if we thought a Federal law would prevent them entirely we would be for a Federal law. However, we happen to believe that the best way to prevent lynching is to encourage local sentiment to oppose such butal outrages.

A Federal anti-lynching law will not increase sentiment in the South, or anywhere else, against lynch law. It will give the Federal government a new law to enforce and, unfortunately ,may lead some people to believe that the problems of lynch law have been settled. This would be a mistake.

Greenville, S. C. News
January 1, 1940

REMOVING THE PRETEXT

Announcement of a new demand from Northern Congressmen for enactment of a federal "anti-lynching" law has come almost simultaneously with the statement from Tuskegee Institute that during 1939 only three lynchings occurred in the United States.

This, we believe, is the smallest number of lynchings in any one year in the modern history of the United States; and certainly the thought will occur to every unbiased citizen that such a record marks notable progress toward elimination of this form of mob murder under the existing system of state responsibility for punishment of this crime and the continuing effort that has been made to strengthen public sentiment against such criminal acts.

Clearly the lynching records of recent years and of 1939 particularly provide no plausible ground whatever for "federal government intervention" in this matter. These Northern sponsors of "anti-lynching" bills, whose interest is patently merely that of holding the votes of the negroes in Northern centers, are finding it more and more difficult to urge any reasonable pretext for their proposals.

Bishopville, S. C. Messenger
January 25, 1940

WASHINGTON NEWS



FROM CONGRESSMAN
JOHN L. McMILLAN

CONGRESS IN FULL SWING—Getting down to business without any waste action, Congress has two important issues before it—one being the bill to make lynching a federal crime and the other Senator Harrison's proposal for a special budget making committee.

VISITORS—Some of the visitors to my office from the Sixth District of South Carolina during the past few days are as follows: Julian Johnson, Georgetown; Mrs. G. W. Graham, Florence; Mrs. W. N. McLeod Jr., Bishopville; Malcolm McMillan Mullins; Mrs. Nan Wilson, Dillon; Thomas Hall, Hartsville; Mrs. Louise Coleman Taylor, Florence; Mrs Reece Shelley, Mullins; C. J. D. Wise Pamplico; Miss Joan Connard, Florence; Eugene Williams, Florence; Mrs. Elizabeth Rogers, Mullins; Ed Smith, Florence; George Hall, Marion; Earl Page, Florence; Thomas Ayers, Nichols; Walter Andrews Andrews; Mrs. James Lynch, Florence; Miss Louise Cox Banville Pamplico; George Taylor, Florence; Tom Stone, Florence; Mrs. Mable King, Hartsville; Guy Courtney Florence; Dean George Olson, Columbia; Miss Amon Harrelson, Mullins; and Frank McEachern, Marion.

ANTI-LYNCHING BILL—We Southern members of Congress have had a very disagreeable week here listening to the Northern Democrats tell us how we should run our affairs in the South. We have certainly had a hard fight and failed to receive any support from the members of Congress from the Eastern and Western states. We are hopeful that this bill will be blocked by the senate as it is clearly unconstitutional and could never be enforced.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
February 15, 1940

GOVERNOR SEES HARM IN ANTI-LYNCH LAW

Columbia, Feb. 12.—Governor Burnet R. Maybank asserted today that if the anti-lynching bill before congress should become law, it "might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists."

In a letter replying to one from Representative Kenneth McKellar requesting his views on the proposal, the governor said that "the situation in the South, according to statistics that you cite and as everyone knows, has improved remarkably year by year, and I want to assure you as governor of South Carolina, and I believe that I speak for the law enforcement officers, that it is their desire to use every means at their command not only to stamp out lynching but to arrest and convict any of those who might be guilty.

"As you know, the South, and I might say particularly South Carolina, abhors the thought of federal interference in states' rights, in so far as police powers are concerned."

Maybank expressed the belief that the bill's enactment "would do far more harm than good because once the federal government assumes responsibility in this field, local officers would not be as alert and would be more inclined to let Washington do it, and, in my opinion, Washington would not be nearly as efficient in the enforcement of these laws as local law enforcement officers, who know the people of their section."

He said that should the federal government attempt to try state officials in the federal courts, he believed "there would be a severe reaction."

"The law, therefore, might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists." Maybank said.

Aiken, S. C., Standard & Review
February 21, 1940

Anti-Lynching Bill Might Generate Prejudice

Goveror Burnet R. Maybank asserted Monday that if the anti-lynching bill before Congress should become law, it "might generate hotter racial prejudice than now exists."

In a letter replying to one from Representative Kenneth McKellar requesting his views on the proposal, the governor said that "the situation in the South, according to statistics that you cite and as everyone knows, has improved remarkably year by year, and I want to assure you as governor of South Carolina, and I believe that I speak for the law enforcement officers, that it is their desire to use every means at their command not only to stamp out lynching but to arrest and convict any of those who might be guilty.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

SOUTH CAROLINA

Lancaster, S. C. News
January 12, 1940

A PURELY POLITICAL MEASURE

—o—

Once more an anti-lynching bill will be introduced in Congress and it is probable that once more a drawn out controversy will result from the matter. This anti-lynching bill is a political measure and the results of any such legislation will be purely political.

It is probable that a bill similar to the Wagner-Van Nuys measure will be brought up and this bill last year provided that lynching cases be taken from state to federal courts and state sheriffs penalized in instances where lynchings took place.

Any such measure would serve only to disturb the relations between the white and colored races in the south for the measure would not prove an economic aid to the negro. Lynchings are to be deplored but such a measure as this one will not prevent colored men from being lynched.

It is a measure proposed by northern negroes and their political friends in a general movement for more social recognition for the colored people. We do not believe the negroes in th south themselves desire measures that promote such a condition. Social equality would embarrass the average southern negro almost as much a the white man.

Such meaures as the Wagner-Van Nuys bill would not prove an economic help to the colored race in any circumstance. We doubt if there is much helpful legislation that can be passed to aid the the negro in an economic manner.

If an anti-lynching bill were passed and lynching cases taken to federal court it should be born in mind that the federal courts of this state have the same kind of people for jurors that the state courts have. As for bringing a civil action against a sheriff the matter would be difficult indeed.

Such measures are sponsored largely by one certain colored organization in the north and they do their colored brethren in the south no good.

This attempted lynching will lend aid to the proponents of the bill. The recent activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Anderson did no service to the Southern senators.

Edgefield, S. C. Advertiser
January 10, 1940

Negro Congressman Against Anti-Lynch Law

The only Negro Congressman, Mitchell (Democrat) of Illinois, has attacked the republican leaders in Congress for "trying to buy back the Negro vote" by bringing up the Anti-lynching bill again this year.

He further stated: "Every vote in the United States is for sale. Not for money, but for rights and justice."

This is strange talk. Perhaps Congressman Mitchell will not agree that the Negro vote has already been bought, and bought with money.

In other words, the administration said in the beginning to the negroes: We are going to raid the United States treasury; if you will help us, we will give you a just share of the loot.

Congressman Mitchell, it will not be doubted, got his share as patronage-dispenser.

* * *

There Is No Quit in the Finns

The Finnish people, without question, are finished in the art of fighting; and we hold no doubt that they will fight to the finish. Vive! Finland!

Belton, S. C., News
January 11, 1940

Comments on Men And Things

By SPECTATOR

* * * * * * * * *

They are agitating again for an anti-lyinching law. Who wants the law? The Northern Democrats. Why? Well they made a trade with some northern negro leaders for votes and corralled the negroes for the New Deal. Now the negroes (or their northern leaders) demand an anti-lynching law. Where do we stand in our Party, the Party of our fathers, the Party which we southern men have really kept alive? A few smooth northern politicians got on the bandwagon and made suckers of all of us. We are afraid of what our Party will do to us.

Since the days of President McKinley (a really likable and earnest man) no Republican tried to stir up the race question but Theodore Roosevelt - and he dropped it like a hot brick. Taft, Harding, Coolidge and Hoover let well-enough alone. But now we Democrats are in power and the threat comes from our brethren, not our opponents. We arp betrayed by those of our own household.

Southern negroes have made great progress. They are becoming better farmers an dthey are developing through their preachers and teachers. Their need is not political agitation and political agitation will embitter the White people against them. I am closely (and pleasantly) in touch with many colored farmers and their families. What they want is a chance to make a living and to enojy the fruits of their labors. They get along well with their White neighbors and are establishing a credit as well as a general reputation for sobriety, integrity and thrift. I applaud their efforts and wish them success. In no sense am I a negro-hater; like all other Southerners I was born and reared with colored people all about. But the political intriguing of a few northern negroes will have sad results for some of our Southern negroes and will destroy much of the useful work of Booker Washington and other leaders. I feel confident that colored ministers and teachers in the South are finding their work more gratifying and that they know that the race issue would be disastrous for their labors.

What is the purpose of this Anti-lynching bill? Does it arise from any serious threat to the peace and enjoyment of our colored people? No! Is it because lynchings are more numerous? No! They are fewer each year - none in this State in 1939. What, then, is the motive of the bill? It has a double motive: (a) to give the Northern negro leaders something to show to their followers for the two million negro votes wihch were traded to the Northern Democrats; (b) It would allow Federal courts to take jurisdiction in a County in case of a lynching. It would allow the Federal Government to intervene directly in the local police affairs of our counties. It would, therefore, destroy the sovereign character of the states. It would put even local police under the thumb of a bureaucracy in Washington. It would be the entering wedge to supervise and control our elections.

I am not advocating lynching; but let no man deceive himself into believing that this bill is an honest endeavor to help our colored people. It is entirely a political play but it is fire that is being played with.

Politicians may bow to this sort of thing in their zeal for favors or

Sumter, S. C. News & Herald
January 11, 1940

Again the Anti-Lynch Bill

The Gavagan anti-lynching bill, which [illegible] fines and imprisonment for peace [illegible] who fail to protect prisoners from [illegible]-mobs, and also makes counties and [illegible]cipalities where lynchings occur lia[illegible] to a $10,000 fine, is expected to pass [illegible] house immediately. This bill, which has [illegible] introduced in every session of con[illegible] for many years, invariably passes [illegible] only to die in the senate because of a Southern filibuster.

An unusual feature of the bill's introduction this time was an attack made on it by Representative Mitchell, Democrat of Illinois, only Negro member of congress and friend of the late Kelly Miller, who declared that the Republicans were trying to buy the Negro vote by supporting the anti-lynching bill.

There have been only three lynchings in the South during the year which has just ended, but the prompt action of Governor White, who called out the National Guards, prevented another in Mississippi this week.

jobs; and they may prate about regularity and Party loyalty - and all the usual twaddle that we've been fed on; but racial and social issues are fundamental in the South and must not be trifled with.

We Southerners of th old school are perplexed. From generation to generation we have fought and detested the Rpublicans because of the high tariff and because of the negro question. Now we find our Party, the Party of our fathers, of Hampton, Tillman, Woodrow Wilson and Grover Cleveland, check-by-jowl with the negroes and after seven years of absolute control of all the Government has not aboted one jot or tittle of the worst tariff bill ever enacted. The two issues - tariff and negroes - which kept the South solid against the Republicans, have become sacred tenets in the creed of the present day Democracy. We now endorse the Haw ley-Smoot tariff bill, since in seven years of full power we have not plucked even an eye brow from it; and we would now enfold the negro in a warm embrace - something the Republicans had quit doing. So what are we and where are we?

Chester, S. C., Reporter
January 11, 1940

EDITORIALS

NO NEED FOR IT

The lynch bill comes up again before Congress. The Tuskeegee record shows only three lynchings in the country during the past year, and a continual decrease every year for past several years. The bill is an effort of Eastern politicians to win and control the negro vote. With the record before him, it does seem that he would see the politics in the effort, and agree that there is no need for the Federal enactment. It is to the interest of the negro in the South that the bill does not pass. — Elberton (Ga.) Star.

The anti-lynching bill might have had some justification in the hearts and minds of some of its advocates back in the days when there were something like 200 lynchings per year, but for the last decade or more there has been a steady falling-off of this barbarous miscarriage of justice, and the fact that last year there were only three lynchings shows that lynching is plainly on the way out. The attempt of Northern Senators and Representatives, both Democrats and Republicans, to force the issue and ram such a bill down the throats of the South under such conditions is nothing in the world but the rankest kind of politics, and we hope the South's defenders stand their ground and beat off the base and underhanded attack, if they have to stay in Washington the entire year, and it means the tying-up, or defeat, of important legislation.

Spartanburg, S. C. Herald
January 12, 1940

At It Again

The anti-lynching bill again has received the approval of the lower house of Congress and is up for consideration in the Senate. It may fail of passage, as it has in the past or it may become a federal law.

Those who are supporting this measure are doing so for political reasons or because they do not know what the South has done to prevent lynchings. Year by year public opinion opposed to that form of lawlessness has grown stronger and lynchings have steadily decreased. White and Negroes in the southern states now regard this type of law violation as rare. Undoubtedly lynching will disappear as soon without a federal law against it as with such a law.

In no part of the world do two races live together in such harmony as in the South. Lawabiding Negroes know that they have nothing to fear from their white neighbors. In the courts of this county, this state and all southern states white men have been convicted of crimes, such as assault and battery and robbery in which the complainants were Negroes. It may be doubted whether justice would have been as fair in districts which are represented in Congress by supporters of the anti-lynching bill.

In the light of recent history the people of the South deserve better treatment from Congress than the action of the House indicates they may receive. The proposed legislation is unjust. It is meddlesome. It sinks to the low level of prejudice and selfishness.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 5, 1940

Trials in Northern States

If the Gavaghan bill, called "anti-lynching bill", in truth a bill to multiply lynchings, become a law, with or without President Roosevelt's signature (he could kill it with a word), and then the transfer of trials of accused lynchers and county officers to federal courts in South Carolina should fail to effect its avowed purpose, the next and almost certain step would be to amend the law to provide for the transfer of the trials of accused lynchers and county officers to the federal courts of other states. Inherent in the Gavaghan bill is the design to destroy government in South Carolina and make the state a province to be governed in New York, Pennsylvania and similar localities where the negro vote is a balance of power in elections.

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ANTILYNCH BILL FOES FACE GREATEST FIGHT

Southern Bloc Apprehensive Over Ability To Win

ELECTION YEAR A HAZARD

Negro Societies Are Putting Question Of Passage Squarely Up To Republicans And G. O. P. Needs Their Vote

By GEORGE MORRIS
From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—Southern Senators indicated today they felt considerable apprehension over their ability to defeat the Anti-Lynching Bill when it comes up for consideration.

Undoubtedly the threat of passage is more acute than it has been during the 20 years the bill has been used as a bait to capture the negro vote.

Except for Southern Democrats, both Republicans and Democrats in the House responded to the crack of the whip of Walter White, secretary of the Society for the Advancement of Colored People, and voted practically as a unit for the bill.

Depends Upon South

The only hope for defeating the bill in the Senate rests upon Southern Senators, a small minority compared with Republicans and Democrats from other sections.

Under the leadership of Senator Tom Connolly of Texas, the Southerners have been able to fillibuster long enough to compel the Senate to lay aside the bill during all previous sessions.

Indications today are that the methods by which the legislation has been defeated in the past might not prevail at this session.

Negro leaders, it is understood, have put the question of passage of the bill squarely up to the Republicans. In the past the Republicans have been able to assist in killing the bill, while pledged to its support if it should come to a vote.

To Fight Indefinitely

The Southerners are determined to carry the fight on indefinitely and to the neglect of everything else, if permitted to do so. However, they could be shut off quickly by applying the cloture rule. The rule has been attempted in the past without success.

The reason the rule limiting debate has not prevailed is that it requires a two-thirds vote and Republicans always come to the aid of the Southerners by opposing cloture.

Republicans argue that the cloture rule is dangerous from the standpoint of the minority. If the majority can shut off the minority at will, they maintain, then the Republicans would be placed at a decided disadvantage in considering many measures to which they are opposed. In reply to negro demand that they vote for cloture, Republican senators say they are heartily in favor of the bill and will support it when it comes to a vote. They add, however, that voting for cloture would set a dangerous precedent which they as a minority are not willing to encourage.

It's Election Year

But this is election year and both parties are clamoring for the negro vote. In some states it is determining in a close contest. The negro vote might change the result in Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania or New York.

Republicans this year are going after the negro vote with determination to wrest it from the Democrats if humanly possible. One way would be for Republican senators to change their tactics, violate precedent and vote for cloture. With debate practically shut off, the bill would be passed with only the opposition of the Southern group.

Republicans are considering the advisability of this procedure in order to go before negro voters and claim credit for passing the bill. The negro lobby for the bill is stronger this year than it has been before. The explanation is that on election year, pressure can be applied with more telling effect.

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
January 12, 1940

Look Who's Preaching!

An exponent of the AntiLynching Bill musters at least one unfortunate argument when he cites the holy and admonitory horror of Europeans over the fact that mob rule is occasionally invoked in the United States. We yield to none in our abomination of the crime of lynching and to none in our desire that it be eradicated from the American scene. More than that, we have consistently opposed the outrage with every means at our disposal.

It is not difficult for us to realize, therefore, that people in other countries should view lynchings with outspoken condemnation, nor do we object to the statement of the emotion. What we should choose, though, is that there should be more appreciation of the fact that barbarism is no easier to curb and put down in this country than elsewhere. After all, we might say if we were a mind to do it, the United States is not dropping bombs on little children, churches and hospitals. If we said that, we'd hope to do it with full understanding of the fact that the decent people of Europe deplored such practices as much as we.

In a word, none of us these days can afford any holier-than-thou stuff, for we need all our brains and energy, sympathetically exercised in friendly co-operation, to get down and stamp out the agencies of ruthless brutality.

The union urged passage of the measure in Congress as a means of "banishing forever lynching and mob violence from our society."

It charged that poll tax laws prevent full participation of citizens in government and disenfranchises many Southern tenants and sharecroppers.

Knoxville, Tenn Journal
January 8, 1940

Farm Union Favors Anti-Lynching Bill

BLYTHEVILLE, Ark., Jan. 7 (AP)—Resolutions asking abolishment of the poll tax as a requirement for voting and supporting the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill in Congress were adopted today at the final session of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union's sixth annual convention.

Passed by the House after a sharp debate, the Gavagan Bill faces either quiet pigeon-holing in the Senate or a rough-and-tumble filibuster by Southern members if it reaches the floor. Because the latter course might raise awkward strains within the Democratic Party on the eve of the Democratic national convention, many political observers think the bill will be pigeon-holed.

The question is—How much public demand is there for antilynching legislation of the Gavagan Bill's type?

To measure American sentiment on the question, the American Institute of Public Opinion has interviewed a scientifically selected cross-section of men and women in every state, so chosen as to reflect the opinions of the 80,000,000 in the adult population. The survey indicates:

1. That a small majority of persons with opinions on the question (55 per cent) are in favor of the proposed legislation.

2. That the strongest support for the bill comes from Northern Democrats, while the strongest opposition comes from Southern Democrats, a fact which makes the subject particularly ticklish for the Democratic Party.

Majority Favors AntiLynch Bill

Strongest Support Comes From Northern Democrats

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 24.—As Congress ploughs its way toward adjournment in time for the national conventions, political observers are watching to see what the Senate will do with one of the most controversial pieces of legislation on its desk, the Gavagan Bill to discourage lynchings.

Drakes Br'ch,Va.,Charlotte Gazette
January 18, 1940

THE PERENNIAL FIASCO

While the seekers after the colored votes declaime that the race was being discriminated against "down South" by the occurrence of three lynchings during the year 1939, it was brought out and substantiated that during the same period in the city of the author of the anti-lynching bill, no less than 272 "gangster killings" occurred. And in the gangster slayings innocent victims including women and children were slain. Of course no Representative from the South favors lawlessness. There is not a member of the congressional body who espouses the crime of lynching—they are as much against mob violence as is their pious and long-faced colleagues from above the Mason and Dixon line. But these same members stand for what is right and constitutional. They demand that federal interference should not interfere with state laws. The bill was railroaded through the House, and will be pigeonholed or talked to deatht in the Senate. However, there were some good arguments made for and against the measure. About the best argument we have seen was a few short words by Congressman Lyle Boren, of Oklahoma, who spoke as follows:

"Mr. Speaker," began Mr. Boren, "there is brought before the House today a resolution for immediate consideration of the Gavagan antilynching bill. No one is more strictly opposed to mob violence than I, but to insist that the Congress give this particular measure precedence over the far-reaching issues that agitate this country and the world at this time is, in my judgment, political chicanery, and I propose to vote against its consideration.

"Let me call your attention to the fact there were 12,000 murders in the United States last year and only 3 lynchings. Of the 3 lynchings, 2 were Negroes and 1 white. Of course, 3 lynchings are too many for an enlightened nation, but in the body of State and national law there is, at the present time, every necessary legal instrument to control murder, whether it come at the hand of individual or mob. This bill, in my judgment, would not add one single ounce of strength to the legal safeguards now offered American citizens.

"This bill indicts our entire police system. It is an automatic indictment of every police system in every municipality, county, and State in the Union. But we have the finest, most patriotic, and capable police in the world.

"It is my opinion that this bill is being used as demagogery's tool to mislead the Negro race in America. I do not believe there is any doubt in the average mind of Congress whether or not this bill will become law. After a few days of unnecessary debate, the bill will pass the lower House and then will lodge in the Senate to die there, after absorbing a great deal of time which should be devoted to constructive purposes, and after remaining an obstruction in the legislative channels throughout this session of Congress. We know this bill is not going to become law—both those who are for and those who are against it know. I feel it is unpatriotic and unfair to the Nation and to the Congress to take the time and energy of this body in this wasteful fashion."

The Washington Post comments also on the bill as follows:

With the problem thus narrowed to two States, there is no excuse whatever for the enactment of an anti-lynching bill that would violate the constitutional division of powers between the Federal Government and the States. Indeed, the proposal of Federal penalties for State officials who fail to do their duty was never acceptable. It presumes to exercise a power which the Constitution denies to the Federal Government. Failure of a few States adequately to protect their own citizens, inexcusable though it is, does not justify such a gross encroachment upon their constitutional rights.

When such cogent objections to the bill are added to the fact that the States have almost completed the task of putting their own houses in order, no reasonable excuse is left for reviving the anti-lynching bill in Congress. Regardless of what action the House may take, the bill will doubtless remain a dead letter. Yet some legislators insist on reviving it in an election year in the hope of winning votes.

The issue, of course, is not lynching. That outrageous and uncivilized practice is condemned by almost every member of Congress. With the current improvement in State law enforcement, it will doubtless soon be wiped out. The question by which the House is confronted is whether one group of legislators shall be permitted to make political capital out of this general hatred of lynching to the detriment of a crowded legislative program.

-6476

LYNCHINGS- 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

VIRGINIA

Bristol, Va., Herald Courier
January 15, 1940

No Anti-Lynching Legislation Now.

The passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill by the House of Representatives was to have been expected. The measure went through by a substantial majority, the vote being 252 to 131. The House passed a similar bill at the last session of Congress.

The Gavagan bill has gone to the Senate where, it is reported, an unyielding Southern filibuster is set to kill it. That also was to have been expected. And doubtless the filibuster will be as successful as that which killed this or a similar measure a year or two ago.

As was said in this column a few days since, is not an opportune time to propose anti-lynching legislation by Congress. Southern Senators have protested that the Southern States were solving this problem for themselves, and their position now is strengthened by the fact that there were only three lynchings last year.

This argument may not have convinced a majority of the Senators at the last session and it may not convince a majority at this session. It did not have any weight with the House. Southern Senators, doubtless fearing that anti-lynching legislation would pass if it came to a vote in the Senate, have prevented it from coming to a vote by filibustering against it.

And, regrettably, that there were only three lynchings in the South last year does not prove that the Southern States have solved that problem. That was three lynchings too many, and no one knows wnether the number this year will be smaller or larger. Sometimes the record of these crimes for a year is comparatively good, while for the next year it has been bad.

If progress has been made toward suppressing mob lawlessness, it has been due not to enforcement of State laws but to the fact that [illegible] sentiment against lynching outrages has become increasingly articulate. The truth is that with two or three exceptions, one of them being Virginia, the Southern States have no laws aimed at mob murders. They do not define lynching as murder and make it a crime against the State, and they do not hunt down and punish lynchers.

It seems safe to predict that there will be no anti-lynching legislation at this session of Congress, but we believe it is also safe to predict that unless the States make more serious and successful efforts to prevent lynchings and to deal adequately with lynchers—more serious and successful efforts to suppress mob lawlessness—Congress will yet pass an anti-lynching law. That is, of course, if mobs continue to murder.

Roanoke, Va., World News
January 15, 1940

Full of Loop-Holes

Pasage by the House of Representatives of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, by a vote of 252 to 131, is regarded as more of a political gesture than a reality. Most of those who voted for it understood that it would not pass the Senate. Such a gesture was regarded as a political necessity by both parties now seeking the large Negro vote of Northern cities for the Presidential election of next November. The Negro vote of the Harlem district of New York city is credited with having decided the last gubernatorial election in New York State.

The bill undertakes to make it a felony for any State or local official in duty bound to protect a person from mob violence, not to make "all diligent effort" to protect him. Where lynching is condoned, as in Mississippi and Florida, juries have refused to convict members of lynching mobs. Such juries would probably hold that acused officers had made "all diligent effort." The penalty is a fine up to $5,000 or imprisonment up to five years, or both.

The bill also provides that the county or area with police jurisdiction in which a lynching occurs is liable for civil damages if it has not used "all due diligence" to protect the victim. Recovery may be made by an injured party, or, if death results, by the next of kin. Again it may be questioned whether a jury that will not convict members of a lynching mob will penalize its own local government by a civil verdict of from $2,000 to $10,000 by deciding that its officers have not used "all due diligence."

The present bill omits a clause contained in some prior efforts for prosecution of members of lynching mobs in Federal courts if local sentiment makes futile prosecution in State courts. Lynching has now disappeared wherever public sentiment is opposed to mob violence. It ended in a number of States after vigorous prosecution of lynching mobs. There were only three lynchings in 1939.

The present bill also excludes all forms of violence in connection with labor disputes. One form of mob violence is left wholly to State and local control; another form of violence is made by this bill a matter of Federal concern, with Federal penalties for State and local officers.

A Federal anti-lynching bill passed the House in 1937 277 to 120, all but three Republicans voting for it, and 62 per cent of the Democrats. Every Representative from New England, from New Jersey, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, and all but one from Pennsylvania voted for it. So did all from three States south of the Mason and Dixon Line, where most Negroes vote —Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia. But all the Southern Representatives voted in the negative, except three Republicans from Kentucky and Tennessee, Maverick of Texas, Creal of Kentucky, and four other Democrats from Oklahoma.

In the Senate, the bill ran into a six-week filibuster which finally killed it. Motions to end the filibuster by applying cloture failed when supported by only 49 per cent of the Democrats, 8 per cent of the Republicans on the first motion, 53 per cent of the Democrats and 23 per cent of the Republicans on the second motion. The Democrats charged the Republicans with playing politics by not voting for cloture so that the bill could pass; the Republicans charged the Democrats with playing politics by not putting on enough pressure either to exhaust the filibuster or to put cloture through.

Danville, Va., Register
January 11, 1940

A PERENNIAL NUISANCE

The Anti-Lynching Bill, perennial subject for congressional debate, has been dropped in the legislative hopper and is already on the way to play its historic role in the current session. Swift passage in the House, followed by bitter debate, often by a filibuster, in the Senate, and final defeat, has been its story at several previous sessions.

A sure-fire arouser of sectional animosities, and a vehicle for northern rabble-rousers to launch attacks on the South, and to appeal for the votes of their negro constituents, the very figures on lynching show plainly that the evil has so nearly disappeared that there can be no necessity for federal legislation to curb it. From a total of 231 lynchings in 1892, the figures dwindled to 130 in 1901, eighty in 1919, twenty in 1935, eight in 1936 and in 1937, six in 1938 and only three last year.

In recent years confined to the Deep South and usually to backwoods districts, it is difficult to see how a law giving federal jurisdiction in such cases would do anything to speed the disappearance of a crime already reduced to the vanishing point. While no sensible person will condone such a crime, it is hard to see why it should be singled out for special legislation when many gang murders and labor strife killings in the North appear to be committed with impunity and with little concern on the part of the police of the big cities.

A liberalization of the powers of federal officers in the cases of kidnaping and bank robberies has worked well, and there may be room for an increased cooperation of federal and state law enforcement officials. The lynching evil, however, certainly does not at present offer any justification for turning the county court house over to the G-men.

Bristol, Va. News Bulletin
January 8, 1940

LYNCHING BILL FORCED ONTO HOUSE FLOOR

Sumners Raps Proponents of Bill; Harrison's Budget Plan Gains Favor

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (AP) Senator Harrison (D-Miss) failed today in an effort to obtain immediate Senate approval of his plan to create a special congressional budget-making committee.

Harrison, chairman of the senate finance committee, had suggested a 24-man joint committee to examine President Roosevelt's budget and make comprehensive fiscal recommendations of its own.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (AP)—Plunging quickly into the new session's business, Congress tackled today two argument-provoking issues—the proposal of Senator Harrison (D-Miss) for a special budget-making committee and the perennial bill to make lynching a federal crime.

Harrison asked the Senate to approve at once his resolution to select 12 senators and 12 House members to examine President Roosevelt's revenue and spending recommendations and then make suggestions of their own.

He claimed White House sympathy for his plan, but it has met opposition from various other quarters, and there were indications that it might be allowed to gather dust in a House pigeonhole until the 1941 post-election Congress meets.

The anti-lynching bill was forced onto the House floor by a petition of 218 members, held over from last year's session. A majority of the House could vote against debating the measure at this time, but it was considered so unlikely that leaders arranged for six hours of oratory beginning tomorrow noon.

The House passed the bill by an overwhelming majority a year ago, but it was filibustered to death in the Senate. It would not surprise even supporters of the measure if the Senate were to block consideration entirely at this session.

Sumners Attacks Bill's Proponents

Chairman Sumners (D-Tex) of the House judiciary committee criticized proponents for reviving the bill "at a time when Democracy is fighting for its life."

Citing a Tuskegee Institute survey that only three lynchings took place in the United States last year, Sumners told reporters:

"In the face of statistics that prove the states have solved the problem, proponents of this bill are saying to the world that democracy has failed and that a federal law is necessary to do the job.

The measure would impose a $5,000 fine, five years' imprisonment or both on any state or local official convicted of negligence in failing to protect a person from lynching. Governmental subdivisions where a lynching occurred would be liable for $10,000 damages pawable to the victim's nearest relative.

Foes of the bill, constituting virtually all the southern and a few northern m embers, argued that it contains a "joker"—a proviso designed to exclude from its penalties "violence occurring during the course of picketing or boycotting or any incident in connection wth any 'labor dispute'."

Should the bill become law, they said, any future Congress could provide the same federal penalties for violence growing out of labor troubles by merely revoking that exemption.

Trade Program Battle Brewing

Behind the scenes in the snow-covered capitol, the battle over extending the reciprocal trade program was gathering momentum. The American Federation of Labor announced its opposition to renewing the trade law, when it expires June 12, and advocated that the present treaties be scrapped.

There is every likelihood that final action on the trade issue would not be taken for several weeks, probably even months. It appears to be the outstanding business of the session, aside from aproval of the regular approriation bills.

The latter might be postponed for some time if Harrison's resolution for a study by a special budgetary committee should be enacted. Senator Bankhead (D-Ala), a brother of the speaker of the House, said he would "object to holding up the business of Congress by needless delay." Similar comments came from Senators Mead (D-NY) and Smathers (D-NJ.)

Senator Austin (R-Vt), on the other hand, told reporters that a complete survey of national defense outlays should be included. He said:

"A study of these appropriations must be mode, even if it takes time. Some opponents say it will take months. I doubt it, but even so, I would be in favor of it."

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LYNCHING * 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

WHITE PRESS SOUTHERN

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
September 17, 1940

WILLKIE FOR THE ANTI-LYNCH BILL

Candidate Willkie has injected the proposed anti-lynch bill as an issue in the presidential campaign. This was brought about in a speech delivered before an audience of negroes, estimated at 15,000, in a ball park in Chicago last week. A bill is now pending before the senate of an anti-lynching character. It has been held up several times when attempts were made to have it voted upon. For years, from time to time similar measures have been introduced in Congress for the avowed purpose of securing the negro vote in the west and in New York where the black belt is strong and has almost enough votes to swing an election to either of the major parties. For the last two presidential elections, the democrats have succeeded in securing the negro vote. This year, the Republicans are making a strong bid to influence the negroes to return to the GOP organization which they supported for many years, but for the last two campaigns they have voted practically solid for the Democratic party.

To array racial prejudice should be beneath the dignity of a candidate for the presidency of the United States. The remarks attributed to Mr. Willkie should have a salutary effect on these forward Southerners and Georgians who have come out in print and| otherwise made known that they propose to vote the Republican ticket this year. With the anti-lynch bill as an issue, these gentlemen will have a sweet morsel to swallow.

An honest effort is being made and has been made to eliminate lynchings in the Southern states through education and not through force and arms. If the federal government undertakes to enforce such legislation, it will find that its plan will result in an absolute failure and create a resentment that will become retroactive instead of reducing the evil. If the lynching problem is left to the people of the South to solve, it will be solved in a quiet and orderly manner through education and goodwill among the races, but, on the other hand, if the measure now before the senate is passed, its enforcement or attempted enforcement will bring on a misunderstanding that is bound to revive a feeling of lawlessness that will be hard to control. Human nature is easy to lead, but when once driving and force is attempted the people revolt and the damage is inestimable.

We do not believe that Mr. Willkie will catch the negro voter on a promise of the passage of the anti-lynch bill. Certainly he will lose the fair-minded vote he had expected in the Southern States. Regardless of the promises made by the Republican candidate for the presidency, we do not believe that the people of the United States have any idea of turning down President Roosevelt for a third term. They have faith and confidence in him in directing the affairs of this nation during these unusual times when we are undergoing a crisis that has never been equalled before. His experience in national and international affairs are such as to demand his retention in office, and such camouflage arguments and racial issues as espoused by Mr. Willkie will be frowned down by his warmest supporters as well as those who class themselves as "Willkie Democrats."

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
September 20, 1940

Favors Anti-Lynching Law

While President Roosevelt to date has not declared himself on the anti-lynching legislation pending in congress Candidate Willkie of the Republican party in his recent trip to Chicago, addressing a vast negro audience, asserted his approval of the measure and favored its enactment by congress. He is well within his rights in doing so, and doubtless expressed his sincere honest convictions.

The anti-lynching bill is an ill-advised piece of legislation which should not be enacted into law. From time immemorial it has been agitated in congress by politicians whose principal aim was pure politics—to make of the negro vote in doubtful states a football. The infamous crime of lynching can be handled by the states. It is being handled by the states, and marked progress has been made in stamping it out. There is no justification or excuse for lynch law. Enactment of a federal statute against lynching will not aid in suppressing mob violence. It will create a dual authority and divided field of responsibility pregnant with possibilities of clashes and invasion and encroachment upon the police powers and rgeulations of sovereign states.

LYNCHING - 1940
LEGISLATION RELATING TO

WHTIE PRESS SOUTHERN

6460

Columbia, S. C. State
September 18, 1940

MR. WILLKIE IS FOR THE ANTI-LYNCHING BILL.

Again The State respectfully asks The News and Courier to ponder what its candidate, Mr. Willkie has said.

Twenty, thirty, forty, fifty or even a hundred times in the past year The News and Courier has denounced the anti-lynching bill as an "anti-Southern" bill, promoted by Northern Negroes and Northern Democrats; and often the denunciations have been accompanied by criticism of President Roosevelt because he has not come out against the proposed anti-lynching legislation. It is admitted the president has not come out for the bill.

"Candidate Roosevelt," declared The News and Courier several days ago, "is in favor of the 'anti-lynching bill.' He has never declared for it, that has been left to Mrs. Roosevelt, but never has he said that he would veto it if passed. He could have killed it with a word. With a word he could kill it now. He won't speak. It is not an anti-lynching bill. It is a Northern Negro anti-Southern bill."

That comment is representative of numerous other comments in the Charleston newspaper, which is supporting Mr. Willkie, partly, one may assume, because of its dislike for the anti-lynching bill and President Roosevelt's disinclination to kill it "with a word"; yet Mr. Willkie, in his appeal to Negroes in Illinois, came out for the anti-lynching bill.

Miami, Fla. Herald
April 26, 1940

Believe Lynch Bill Doomed This Session

"Attitude" of Barkley Rapped By Proponent of Measure

By United Press

WASHINGTON, April 25.—Secretary Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared Thursday that Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley's "attitude" toward the controverted anti-lynching bill "means that all hope . . . must be abandoned for any vigorous and determined effort to get it enacted at this session of congress."

White made public an exchange of letters between himself and Barkley, in which the Democratic leader assailed White for "utterly false" statements and "utterly contemptible" tactics.

Barkley said that supporters of the bill "know, just as you know, that this bill cannot be brought to a vote without cloture, and they know, just as you know, that it is impossible to obtain a two-thirds vote to limit debate on this measure."

"I do not know any such thing," White replied. "A considerable number of Democratic senators have declared that they will vote for cloture. A number of Republican senators have stated that they will not do as they did during the 1938 filibuster when they voted against limitation of the debate and will this year vote for cloture."

A Southern filibuster killed the measure last session. The house recently repassed the bill and it now is on the senate calendar.

Greenville, S. C. News
November 27, 1940

PROMPTLY PASSED

The country doubtless finds something of a surprise in the speedy passage by the United States Senate of the controversial Walter-Logan bill after only very short debate.

The reported plans of some opponents of the measure to attempt to defeat it by "amending" it to include the anti-lynching measure—a thoroughly inexcusable proposal — apparently did not materialize; and the measure now goes back to the House for consideration of general revisions in the House bill made by the Senate committees.

The promptness with which the Senate passed this measure may have been due to the belief that it would receive a Presidential veto. Even should the President veto the bill, however, the reasons which he would give for his action may provide the basis for the reintroduction and passage of a modified measure of this character at the next session. As has been pointed out, the Walter-Logan bill embraces a salutary principle in its purpose of placing greater restraints upon arbitrary bureaucratic action; and it is difficult to see how sound objection can be made to this basic purpose.

Something has been accomplished for the preservation of methods of democracy in our administrative structure by this Senate action even though the measure as it now stands is killed by a veto.

LYNCHING-1940
NAACP PRESS REPORTS ON

6395

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

NAACP Figures Show Five People Lynched In 1940!

JAN 1 1 1941 JAN 1 1 1941

Tuskegee Also Revises Its Figures to Coincide With that of New York Organization—Only One Person Lynched Under Pretext of Rape.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9—During the year 1940 five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced last week.

The record, according to the NAACP, represents one more than the number reported for 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September, were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows:

Ike Gaston, white, March 7, Atlanta, Ga.; O'Dee Henderson, May 8, Fairfield, Ala.; Elbert Williams, June 20, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, Luverne, Ala.; Austin Callaway, Sept. 8, LaGrange, Ga.

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth, was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to attack a wht woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot. Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beaten his wife on numerous occasions. The body of Williams, a member of the Brownsville, Tenn., branch of the NAACP, was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Negro citizens to the City Hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation wtih a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the NAACP and other organizations include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi and Tennesee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completion of the investigations NAACP officials said.

Although Tuskegee Institute announced December 19 that the total number of lynchings during 1940 was four, NAACP officials made public a telegram from Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of the school saying: "Recent information substantiates Luverne case as lynching. Our total revised to five."

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
January 1, 1941

Five Lynchings Reported in '40

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced Monday that five persons, four of them negroes, were lynched during 1940 and that the deaths of 10 others suspected of being lynched were under investigation.

The lynchings, one more than were recorded in 1939, occurred in these states, the association said: Georgia, two; Alabama, two; Tennessee, one.

Christian Recorder
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK—During the year 1940 five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced.

JAN 16 1941

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LYNCHING-1940
NAACP REPORTS ON

6396

The Daily Worker
New York, N. Y.

South's Crop of Brutal Lynchings for 1940 Exceeds '39, as Congress Shelves Anti-Lynch Bill

JAN 6 1941

Violent death at the hands of lynch mobs came to fifteen persons in the Old South during the year 1940.

Up in Washington a tight little band of drawling Congressmen—poll tax autocrats—ruled that the federal government shall pass no anti - lynching law. None was passed. Not a single administration spokesman, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt down, chose to challenge the right of lynch rule in Dixie.

JAN 6 1941

Of the fifteen killings, five have been established as lynchings according to the strictest legal definition of that term. The ten other deaths are still being investigated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to determine if that legal definition can be applied to them as well.

FIVE IN GEORGIA

But there is no controversy about the definition of a corpse, and fifteen dead and battered bodies are buried today: 5 in Georgia; 4 in Louisiana; 2 in Alabama; 2 in Tennessee; and one each in Mississippi and Florida.

In 1938, during the time that democracy was suspended while Southern Senators drawled themselves hoarse in a filibuster upholding the right of mob murder, Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee inserted in the Congressional Record a statement of Southern governors protesting against federal legislaton on the grounds that the states could prevent lynchings and punish lynchers.

JAN 6 1941

That statement is still there, and its authors still stand by it. But in 1940 not a single Southern state punished a single lyncher.

Ike Gaston was a white man. He ran a barber shop in Atlanta, Ga. He did not like the Ku Klux Klan, and the KKK does not like opposition. On March 7 a mob of vigilantes got Ike Gaston. He was thoroughly kicked and beaten to death. Later the KKK said Ike Gaston had frequently got drunk, had often beat his wife.

KILLED BY POLICE

O'Dee Henderson was 24 years old. He was a steel worker and lived in Fairfield near Birmingham, Ala. On May 8 Henderson somehow got into an altercation with a white man. That is something Negroes must not do in Birmingham. Henderson was taken to a police station. Reports of the fight spread through the town. People began to gather at the police station. Henderson's body was found battered and riddled with bullets from police service revolvers.

JAN 6 1941

Elbert Williams lived in Brownsville, Tenn., and was a member of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Williams was interested in his people, thought they should have a voice in government affairs. On June 20 he accompanied a group of other Negroes to the city hall where they sought information on how to register to vote in the 1940 presidential elections. Williams did not come back with the group. Next day his body was found in a river swamp a short distance from town. The NAACP identified ten of Williams' lynchers, gave their names to local authorities and to the FBI. There have been no arrests.

TORTURED TO DEATH

Jesse Thornton was a Negro worker who lived in Luverne, Ala. On June 22 he had occasion to speak to a white police officer. It was a fatal conversation. Thornton failed to address the white man as "Mr." Policemen led the mob that got Thornton. His body was found riddled with bullets.

JAN 6 1941

Austin Callaway lived in LaGrange, Ga. He was 16 years old. He was charged with attempting to attack a white woman. On Sept. 8 a gang of masked men walked boldly into the LaGrange jail, got the boy, took him 8 miles out of town. They didn't kill him right away. They didn't use their guns at all until after he had been tortured to death. Then they shot him.

Such are the stories of the five "established" lynchings for 1940.

The soft-spoken, drawling Congressmen from the South do not want any interference with their State's rights." The federal government under Franklin D. Roosevelt is very careful not to embarrass the poll-tax legislators. There will be no anti-lynching bill passed this year either if he administration can prevent it.

The problem of lynching is still up to the people.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

5 Lynchings Reported For 1940 By NAACP

JAN 4 1941

During the year 1940 five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced Tuesday, December 31.

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Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Five Lynched In 1940 Says Report

JAN 1 1941

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JAN 11 1941

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth, was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to attack a white woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot. Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beaten his wife on numerous occasions. The body of Williams, a member of the N. A. A. C. P. branch, Brownsville, Tenn., was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Negro citizens to the city hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

JAN 1 1941

Star of Zion
Charlotte, N. C.

Five Lynched In 1940 N. A. A. C. P. eports

JAN 9 - 1941

Ten Other Deaths Under Investigation

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Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the N. A. A. C. P. and other organizations include 3 in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completion of the investigations, N.A.A.C.P. officials said.

Although Tuskegee Institute announced December 19 that the total number of lynchings during 1940 was four, N.A.A.C.P. officials made public today a teelgram from Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of the school, saying: "Recent information substantiates Luverne case as lynching. Our total revised to five."

The revised list of 1940 lynchings issued by the association today followed a recent meeting at Tuskegee Institue between officials of the N.A.A.C.P., Tuskegee Institute, and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. Included among the principals at the meeting were Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; and Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. The conference was held in order to compare methods of investigation pursued by the groups, exchange information, and to work out a basic method of cooperation which will prevent the issuance of different sets of lynching figures in the future.

An increased tendency of lynching "to go underground," was noted during 1940, the N.A.A.C.P. announcement said. "Despite the protestations of southern goevrnors, put into the Congressional Record by Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee during the filibuster against the federal anti-lynching bill in 1938, that federal legislation against lynching is unnecessary because the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and punish lynchers, not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the states," it was pointed out, "despite the fact that the lynchers are known in most cases. This is true particularly in teh case of Elbert Williams, of Brownsville, Tennessee, where the N.A.A.C.P. revealed the ten lynchers whose names have been placed in the hands of the authorities, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Durham, N. C., Morning Herald

Jan [redacted] 1, [redacted] 1941

5 PERSONS REPORTED LYNCHED DURING 1940

New York, Dec. 31.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced today that five persons, four of them Negroes, were lynched during 1940 and that the deaths of 10 others suspected of being lynched were under investigation. The lynchings, one more than were recorded in 1939, occurred in these states, the association said: Georgia 2, Alabama 2. Tennessee 1.

Amsterdam News
New York, N. Y.

5 Lynchings Recorded in '40; 10 Others Suspected

JAN 18 1941

During the year 1940, five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the NAACP announced this week.

The record, according to the NAACP, represents one more than the number reported for 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows:

Ike Gaston, white, March 7, Atlanta, Ga.; O'Dee Henderson, May 8, Fairfield, Ala.; Elbert Williams, June 20, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, Luverne, Ala.; and Austin Callaway, September 8, LaGrange, Ga.

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the NAACP and other organizations include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana and one each in Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completion of the investigations, NAACP officials said.

The revised list of 1940 lynchings issued by the association followed a recent meeting at Tuskegee Institute between officials of the NAACP, Tuskegee Institute and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

LYNCHING--1940
NAACP REPORTS ON

6397

Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

N. A. A. C. P. REPORTS FIVE 1940 LYNCHINGS; 10 OTHER DEATHS UNDER INVESTIGATION

JAN 10 1941

Number Agrees With Revised List Issued From Tuskegee Institute; Lynchings Tend 'To Go Underground'

Tuskegee Revises Lynching Figures

TUSKEGEE. — (ANP) — A revision in the report issued by the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute places the number of persons lynched in 1940 at five instead of the original four.

NEW YORK. — During the year 1940 five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced.

The record according to the N.A.A.C.P., represents one more than the number reported in 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September, were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows: JAN 10 1941

Ike Gaston, white, March 7, Atlanta, Ga.; O'Dee Henderson, May 8, Fairfield, Ala.; Elbert Williams, June 20, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, Luverne, Ala.; Austin Callaway, September 8, LaGrange, Ga.

One Sex Offense

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth, was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to attack a white woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot. Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beat his wife on numerous occasions.

The body of Williams, a member of the Brownsville, Tenn., branch of the N.A.A.C.P., was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Negro citizens to the City Hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the N.A.A.C.P. and other organizations include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completions of the investigations, N.A.A.C.P. officials said.

Although Tuskegee institute announced December 19 that the total number of lynchings during 1940 was four, N.A.A.C.P. officials made public this week a telegram from Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of the school, saying: "Recent information substantiates Luverne case as lynching. Our total revised to five."

The revised list of 1940 lynchings issued by the association followed a recent meeting at Tuskegee institute between officials of the N.A.A.C.P., Tuskegee institute, and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Included among the principals at the meeting were Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee; Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; and Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. The conference was held in order to compare methods of investigation pursued by the groups, exchange information, and to work out a basic method of cooperation which will prevent the issuance of different sets of lynching figures in the future.

JAN 10 1941

Guardian
Boston, Mass.

5 LYNCHED DURING 1940

JAN 4 1941

NEW YORK—Five persons, four colored, one white, were lynched during the year 1940, according to reports by both the NAACP and Tuskegee Institute.

JAN 4 - 1941

The record represents one more than the number reported for 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September, were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows:

Ike Gaston, (white) March 7, Atlanta, Ga.; O'Dee Henderson, May 8, Fairfield, Ala.; Elbert Williams, June 20, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, Luverne, Ala.; Austin Callaway, September 8, LaGrange, Ga.

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to atack a white woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot. Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beaten his wife on numerous occasions. The body of Williams, a member of the Brownsville, Tenn., branch of the N.A.A.C.P., was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Colored citizens to the City Hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

Cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the N.A.A.C.P. and other organizations include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

JAN 4 - 1941

An increased tendency of lynching "to go underground," was noted during 1940, the N.A.A.C.P. announcement said. "Despite the protestations of southern governors, put into the Congressionall Record by Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee during the filibuster against the federal anti-lynching bill in 1938 that federal legislation against lynching is unnecessary because the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and punish lynchers, not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the states," it was pointed out, "despite the fact that the lynchers are known in most cases. This is true particularly in the case of Elbert Williams, of Brownsville, Tenn., where the N.A.A.C.P. revealed the ten lynchers whose names have been placed in the hands of the authorities, including the Feredal Bureal of Investigation."

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

10 MURDERS ON DOUBTFUL LIST OF N.A.A.C.P.

JAN 11 1941

Four Colored, One White Citizen Lose Lives In Mob-Ruled South

NEW YORK.—During the year 1940, five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched, and the deaths of 10 others suspected of being lynched are still under investigation, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced Friday.

The record, according to the N.A.A.C.P., represents one more than the number reported for 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September, were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows:

Ike Gaston, white, March 7, Atlanta, Ga.; O'Dee Henderson, May 8, Fairfield, Ala.; Elbert Williams, June 20, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, Luverne, Ala.; Austin Callaway, September 8, La Grange, Ga.

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth, was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to attack a white woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot.

Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beaten his wife on numerous occasions.

The body of Williams, a member of the Brownsville, Tenn., branch of the N.A.A.C.P., was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Negro citizens to the City Hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr."

Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala., steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police station.

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the N.A.A.C.P. and other organizations include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completion of the investigations N.A.A.C.P. officials said.

Although Tuskegee Institute announced December 19 that the total number of lynchings during 1940 was four, N.A.A.C.P. officials made public today a telegram from Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of the school saying: "Recent information substantiates Luverne case as lynching. Our total revised to five."

An increased tendency of lynching "to go underground," was noted

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This is true particularly in the case of Elbert Williams, of Brownsville, Tenn., where the N.A.A.C.P. revealed the 10 lynchers whose names have been placed in the hands of the authorities, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

WELCH W VA NEWS
MONDAY JANUARY 27 1941

LYNCHINGS IN 1940

Four Negroes and one white person were found to have been lynched in 1940, according to a report by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association and other agencies are investigating the deaths of ten other persons suspected of having been lynched.

The association which points out that lynchings in 1939 totaled four, said that of the lynchings this year two occurred in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee between March and September. In only one case, the report added, was the victim accused of a sex offense.

The cases under investigation include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana and one each in Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The report declared that "not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the States" despite the "protections of Southern Governors."

The white person lynched was identified as Ika Gaston of Atlanta, Ga., a barber, who, according to the report, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was alleged to have been intoxicated and to have beaten his wife on numerous occasions.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

NAACP Reports Five Lynchings in 1940

JAN 4 1941

NEW YORK—During 1940 five persons, four colored and one white, whose cases have been authenticated, were found to have been lynched are still under investigation, the NAACP announced this week.

The record, according to the NAACP, represents one more than the number reported for 1939. The lynchings, two of which took place in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September, were listed in the order of their occurrence as follows:

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JAN 4 1941

One Charged with Sex Offense

In only one case, that of Austin Callaway, a 16-year-old youth was the victim charged with a sex offense. Callaway was charged with attempting to attack a white woman. He was taken from jail by several masked men, carried about eight miles from town and shot. Gaston, a white barber shop proprietor, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was said to have been drunk often and beaten his wife on numerous occasions.

The body of Williams, a member of the Brownsville Tenn., branch of the NAACP, was found in a river swamp the day after he had gone with a group of Negro citizens to the City Hall in an effort to secure information about registering in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election.

Thornton was shot to death by a mob led by police officials, one of whom Thornton had failed to address as "Mr." Henderson, a 24-year-old Birmingham, Ala. steel worker, who had been arrested following an altercation with a white man, was ganged and shot by police officers and citizens inside a police stati

JAN 4 19

Borderline Cases

The cases of suspected lynchings still under investigation by the NAACP and other organizations include 3 in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Whether these cases will be classified as lynchings will be determined upon the completion of the investigations NAACP officials said.

The revised list of 1940 lynchings issued by the association followed a recent meeting at Tuskegee Institute between officials of the NAACP, Tuskegee Institute, and the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

Included among the principals at the meeting were Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; and Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP. The conference was held in order to compare methods of investigation pursued by the groups, exchange information, and to work out a basic method of cooperation which will prevent the issuance of different sets of lynching figures in the future.

An increased tendency of lynching "to go underground," was noted during 1940, the NAACP announcement said.

JAN 4 1941

"Despite the protestations of southern governors, put into the Congressional Record by Senator Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee during the filibuster against the federal anti-lynching bill in 1938, that federal legislation against lynching is unnecessary because the states themselves could and would prevent lynchings and punish lynchers, not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the states," it was pointed out, "despite the fact that the lynchers are known in most cases.

"This is true particularly in the case of Elbert Williams, of Brownsville, Tenn., where the NAACP revealed the ten lynchers whose names have been placed in the hands of authorities, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Chicago Tribune
Chicago, Illinois

REPORT SHOWS FIVE LYNCHINGS IN YEAR OF 1940

JAN 1 1941

New York, Dec. 31 [Special].—Four Negroes and one white person were found to have been lynched in 1940, according to a report issued by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association and other agencies are investigating the deaths of 10 other persons suspected of having been lynched, the report said.

The report, which said that lynchings in 1939 totaled four, added that of the lynchings this year two occurred in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee between March and September. In only one case, the report asserted, was the victim accused of a sex offense.

The cases under investigation include three in Georgia, four in Louisiana, and one each in Florida, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The report declared that "not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the states," despite the "protestations of southern governors."

WEIRTON W VA TIMES
MONDAY JANUARY 27 1941

40

LYNCHINGS IN 1940

Four Negroes and one white person were found to have been lynched in 1940, according to a report by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association and other agencies are investigating the deaths of ten other persons suspected of having been lynched.

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The report declared that "not one of the lynchers of 1940 has been punished by the States" despite the "protection of Southern Governors."

The white person lynched was identified as Ika Gaston of Atlanta, Ga., a barber, who, according to the report, was beaten to death by a vigilante mob because he was alleged to have been intoxicated and to have beaten his wife on numerous occasions.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
N.A.A.CP. REPORTS ON

6398

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 4, 1940

Association Irked Over Lynch Story

NAACP Says Tuskegee Report Of Violent Deaths Inaccurate

NEW YORK, July 3 (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee Institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., Negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

"On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. (All three were white persons).

"On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 Presidential election."

Declaring that "such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for sabotage of such legislation," the telegram continued.

"Tuskegee should either establish machinery to get facts completely and accurately or stop issuing lynching figures."

The Institute's Department of Records and Research had reported eight lynchings in 1937, six in 1938, three in 1939 and none so far in 1940.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
July [illegible] 1940

NO U. S. LYNCHING LAST HALF YEAR

Arguments Started Though by Report; Three Deaths in Georgia Beatings

Washington, July 3 (AP).—Representative Hobbs (D.-Ala.) informed the house today that there had not been a single lynching in the United States during the first six months of this year.

"This proves again," Hobbs said, "that crime is being utterly eradicated by the only force that can eradicate it—namely, enlightened public sentiment."

CITES WHITE DEATHS

New York, July 3 (AP).—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee (Ala) negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

"On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. (All three were white persons).

"On June 22 Elbert Wiliams, negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election.'

UNSOLVED MYSTERY

Atlanta, July 3 (AP).—The deaths of Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford near McDonough, Ga., last March, remain an unsolved mystery with a coroner's jury deciding that they died "at the hands of persons unknown."

Police failed to find any clues to the identity of those responsible. Bodies of Miss Rawls, 20, and Ford, 24, were found sprawled in a corn field six miles from McDonough, 20 miles southeast of here. Their heads had been crushed by repeated blows.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive director of the association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, said tonight there never was any evidence to indicate Miss Rawls and Ford were victims of a lynching.

A coroner's jury held that Ike Gaston came to his death at the hands of persons "unknown." Gaston, a barber at East Point, Atlanta suburb, was found beaten to death. No indictments were returned in the investigation of his death, but the inquiry resulted in disclosure of numerous floggings by a night riding band wearing Ku Klux Klan regalia.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 4, 1940

LYNCHING FIGURES BASIS OF DISPUTE

NEW YORK, July 3—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee Institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., Negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

"On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. (All three were white persons.)

"On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election."

Declaring that "such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for sabotage of such legislation," the telegram continued:

"Tuskegee should either establish machinery to get facts completely and accurately or stop issuing lynching figures."

The institute's department of records and research had reported eight lynchings in 1937, six in 1938, three in 1939 and none so far in 1940.

NAACP REFUTES TUSKEGEE ON LYNCH DATA

Guardian
7-13-40
Boston, Mass.

NEW YORK—The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People July 3:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during first six months of nineteen forty. On March second, Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Georgia. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by mob in same city. On June Twenty-second, Elbert Williams, was lynched at Brownsville, Tennessee, for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in nineteen forty presidential election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching Bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

(Signed) "Walter White, Secretary"

Four Lynchings, Three White, Cited By N.A.C.P. In Refuting Tuskegee Institute

Star of Zion
7-11-40
Charlotte, N. C.

New York—The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occured during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson president of Tuskegee Institute, by the N.A.A.C.P., July 3rd:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occured during the first six months of 1940. On March 2nd Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

(Signed) "Walter White, Sec'y.

TUSKEGEE LYNCH REPORT RELEASED REFUTED BY WHITE

Negro Labor News
7-13-40
Boston, Mass.

NEW YORK CITY— The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940, was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

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4 Lynchings, 3 White Cited by NAACP In Refuting Tuskegee

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(Signed)

"Walter White, Secretary".

NAACP Refutes Tuskegee Lynch Report; Cites 3

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(Signed)

"WALTER S. WHITE,
"Secretary."

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
July 5, 1940

Colored Association Says Tuskegee Didn't Learn About Lynchings

York, July 5.—(U.P.)—The ...nal Association for the Advancement of Colored People said today it had not yet received a reply from Tuskegee Institute, which the association criticized in a statement on lynchings.

The association took issue with an institute statement which said no lynchings had occurred in the United tSates during the first six months of 1940. The association adduced several instances of lynchings and floggings in that period and said it was "inexpressibly shocked" by the institute's report.

"Such inexcusable statements by the institute," the association said, "do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for the sabotage of such legislation."

Anniston, Ala. Star
July 5, 1940

SCORE TUSKEGEE

NEW YORK, July 5. (U.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said today it had not yet received a reply from Tuskegee Institute, which the association criticized in a statement on lynchings issued July 3.

The association took issue with an institute statement which said no lynchings had occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1940. The association adduced several instances of lynchings and floggings in that period and said it was "inexpressibly shocked" by the institute report.

Lynchless Year Claim Unofficial

NEW YORK, N. Y.—The statement issued last week by Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching in which she characterized the last 12 months as a "Lynchless Year," was made without the authorization of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, and "entirely on her own personal responsibility," it was said last week by Dr. Will Alexander, director of the commission.

Dr. Alexander made the statement Friday in a telegram to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in response to an association inquiry.

The commission, it is understood, pays Mrs. Ames' salary and expenses in connection with her work with the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching. The Commission's headquarters are in Atlanta. The text of the NAACP's telegram follows:

"Will you as director Commission on Interracial Cooperation, which, we understand, pays expenses and salary of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames as chairman Association Southern Women for Prevention of Lynching, wire us if Mrs. Ames' statement of May 9, that that date marked end of twelve months lynchless period was authorized or endorsed by commission which statement was inexplicable in light of killing by Ku Klux Klan mobs of Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford near Atlanta on March 2, and of Ike Gaston on March 7?"

WHITE GEORGIANS REPLY

Coincident with the release of Dr. Alexander's telegram repudiating the "Lynchless Year" statement the NAACP pointed out that in the current issue of the North Georgia Review, a quarterly magazine, two white women, natives of the state, give what might be described as an "adequate reply" to Mrs. Ames' statement. The article said in part:

"And we let a Negro be killed so quietly the other day in Georgia that no one's sensitive feelings were bruised in the least—for we are learning Mississippi's new technique of lynching like gentlemen—with no fuss and notoriety.

"After all, why not get these little necessary tasks done as quickly and with as little wear and tear on one's nerves as possible. It was crude of us, wasn't it, in the old days to have mobs milling around, and to indulge our penchant for taking all the pieces of the victim save possibly his entrails, home with us as souvenirs.

"That was a bit excessive,, caused talk and so . . . so now we are learning more restraint. The point is, kill your nigger but for God's sake be refined about it and don't leave any mess around to annoy the passers-by."

DEMOCRTIC COMMITTEE HEARS WALTER WHITE!

Chicago — Charging "open and notorious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching at Brownsville, Tennessee, Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary headed a committee of five which appeared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention at the Blackstone hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro in the platform of the Democratic party.

Secretary White said the Brownsville lynching was the fourth of 1940 and indicated the need for federal action against mobs. The N.A.A.C.P. committee also suggested a declaration by the Democrats in the platform for the integration of Negroes in all branches of the armed service.

The committee also asked for the abolishment of the poll tax and the lily-white primaries; abolition of the color line in employment; equitable distribution of federal funds to states to aid education, health, housing, relief, farm aid and other services; extension of Social Security to agricultural, domestic and casual labor; abolition of the color line in federal government posts and enforcement of civil rights laws in all sections of the United States.

The N.A.A.C.P. committee appeared before the resolutions committee at the invitation of Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman.

6399

LYNCHINGS- 1940
N.A.A.C.P. REPORTS ON

NAACP Names Lynchers In Letter to President

7-2-40 - New York, N.Y.

Two bankers, a state highway commissioner, federal police officers and [illegible] were charged in a report sent yesterday to President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice with the lynching of Elbert Williams, a Negro fireman of Brownsville, Tenn.

The report was sent to President Roosevelt by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People after a three-day investigation of the lynching by Walter White. According to the report Williams' body was fished up from a river near Brownsville, Sunday June 23

His head was battered and beaten to twice its normal size.

There were two stab or bullet wounds on his chest. His arms and feet were tied with rope and his body weighted d[illegible] by a heavy load which was tied around his neck.

The report gives the following account of incidents leading up to the present reign of terror against Negroes in Brownsville:

On May 6, the Rev. Buster Walker, John Lester, and John Gaines, both farmers; Taylor Newborn, owner of a dry cleaning plant; and Elisha Davis, owner of a filling station, went to County registrar Mann's [illegible] they wished to register and vote in the Presidential election.

SHERIFF THREATENS

Mann sent them to City Judge Pearson, who asked them: "What committee is this?" They replied that they were simply seeking advice about how to qualify to vote in the 1940 Presidential election. Judge Pearson, in turn, referred them to Jonas Steinberger, a cotton buyer and chairman of the elections committee. Mr. Steinberger was out of the city, so the five individuals and the other colored people, having learned in the meantime that the registration booths would not open until August, let the matter rest.

But on the following day Deputy Sheriff T. Bolden went to Rev. Walker and threatened him saying that he had better "stop encouraging Negroes to vote or there will be trouble. Don't say I warned you," he said.

Nothing further was heard until two weeks later when Strauss Drumwright, unemployed, went to Elisha Davis's filling station to tell him that he heard that Mr. Davis was "a member of some organization getting Negroes to vote." He told him to "let that thing drop or Negroes will get into some serious trouble. **The People down at the courthouse say they will run you and Walker out of town if you try to vote.**"

LAWYER THREATENED

On June 3, J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro lawyer, came to Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood County, Tennessee, to try a case for a Negro client accused of shooting at a white man. Ballard was escorted out of town by police officials, when a mob threatened his life inside the courtroom.

At 1 o'clock in the morning, Sunday, June 16, Elisha Davis was aroused from sleep by a mob of whites who pounded on his door. He was told to come down and prepare to leave home. Before he was led away his wife, mother of his seven children, asked that her husband's life be spared. She was told by one of the police officers: "You'll never see this black s— of a b— again. We are going to kill him."

Davis was hustled into an automobile by leaders of the mob, and carried to the "river bottom" six miles away. Here he was questioned about the purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and asked to give the names of members in the organization.

He was then taken to the edge of town and told never to return on pain of death. Davis walked eight or nine miles finally arriving in Jackson, Tenn.

No Lynchings' Claim Blasted as Untrue

7-4-40 New York

Tuskegee Institute's assertion Monday that there were no lynchings in the United States for the first half year of 1940 was called false by Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday. Mr. White, who is national secretary of the organization, cited lynchings of Negroes and whites in a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee.

Mr. White's telegram said:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during first six months of 1940. On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Georgia. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by mob in same city. On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tennessee, for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation. Tuskegee should either establish machinery to get facts completely and accurately or stop issuing lynching figures."

NAACP Cites Four Lynchings In Six Months

Courier

NEW YORK, July 11—The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People July 3:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940. On March 2, Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. On June 22, Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his Constitutional right to register in order to vote in the 1940 Presidential election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

(Signed)
WALTER WHITE, Sec'y.

NAACP Refutes Tuskeee, Four Lynched So Far

Chicago 7-11-40

NEW YORK, July 11—The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People July 3:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during first six months of 1940. On March second Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in same city.

"On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

Mobile, Ala., Press, Forum Sun. July 12 '40

4 LYNCHINGS, 3 WHITE CITED BY NAACP

NEW YORK — The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statements that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F.D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, by the Nationol Association for the Advancement of Colored People Ju. 3

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during the six months of nineteen forty. On March 2nd Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Georgia. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by mob in the same city On June 22, Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tennessee, for attempting to exercise his constitutional rights to register in order to vote in nineteen forty President Election. Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob burder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lyching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

(Signed) "Walter White,
Secretary."

NAACP Cites Lynchings To Refute Tuskegee's Report

Daily World

NEW YORK—(SNS)—The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People July 3:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during first six months of Nineteen Forty. On March second Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Georgia. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by mob in same city. On June Twenty-Second Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in Nineteen Forty Presidential election. "Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of Anti-lynching Bill ammunition for sabotage of such Legislation."

(Signed) "Walter White, Secretary."

Telegram Of Protest Sent Dr. Patterson

NAACP Tells Democrats of Lynching

Tribune 7-13-40

Chicago, June 12—Charging "open and notorious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching at Brownsville, Tennessee, Walter White, NAACP secretary, headed a committee of five which appeared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention at the Blackstone hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro in the platform of the Democratic party.

Mr. White, spokesman for the group, described in detail the lynching of Elbert Williams at Brownsville, Tenn., and painted a picture of the terror to which Negro citizens in that town have been subjected since a few of them led by the NAACP branch had indicated their intention to register and vote in the presidential election next November.

Secretary White said the Brownsville lynching was the fourth of 1940 and indicated the need for federal action against mobs. He pointed out that the lynching had occurred as a result of Negro Americans trying to exercise their right to vote and called upon the Democratic party for immediate passage at this session of Congress of the anti-lynching bill which already has passed the House and is now on the Senate calendar.

The NAACP committee also suggested a declaration by the Democrats in the platform for the integration of Negroes in all branches of the armed services. It was pointed out that Negro citizens are being called to bear the burden of defense but are not permitted to enlist in the navy except as mess attendants and are barred from the air corps, the coast artillery, the engineering corps and other branches of the army except the infantry and cavalry.

The committee also asked for the abolition of the poll tax and the lily white primaries; abolition of the color line in employment; equitable distribution of federal funds to states to aid education, health, housing, relief, farm aid and other services; extension of social security to agriculture, domestic and casual labor; abolition of the color line in federal government posts and enforcement of civil rights laws in all sections of the United States.

The NAACP committee appeared before the resolutions committee at the invitation of Senator Robert F. Wagner, the chairman. Other members of the committee besides Mr. White included Irvin C. Mollison, Chicago; Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma City, Okla.; W. Robert Ming of Washington, D. C., and Alderman [illegible] of Chicago.

Georgia Lynching Is 6th for 1940

SEP 21 1940

Wash. Tribune

NEW YORK—The lynching of 19-year-old Austin Callaway in LaGrange, Ga., September 8 by a mob of six masked white men who forced the local jailer to release the boy from a cell, and then took him eight miles from town where he was shot to death, constitutes the sixth authenticated lynching of 1940, the NAACP announced here this week. Wash, D.C.

Young Callaway was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman. The complete list of 1940 lynchings, together with dates, places and manner of lynching, follows: Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2, Ike Gaston, March 7, all white, all beaten to death at Atlanta; Elbert Williams, June 20, drowned, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, shot to death, Luverne, Ala.; Austin Callaway, September 8, shot to death, LaGrange, Ga.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
N.A.A.C.P. REPORTS ON

6400

Five Lynchings in 1939 According to NAACP.

NEW YORK, N. Y.— There were five persons, two of them white, lynched in the United States during 1939, according to a report anounced by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In only one case was the charge of molesting whites alleged. The other cases grew out of differences between employer and employee, and an automobile accident. The list of lynch victims, in chronological order, together with the alleged causes, follows:

Walter Lee Frazier, week of January 29, Eldorado, Ark., shot allegedly for molesting white couples; Miles W. Brown, white, April 1, Panama City, Fla., shot convicted of first degree murder for killing employer; Lee Snell, April 29, Daytona Beach Fla shot, charged with fatally injuring white child with his taxicab;

Joe Rodgers, May 8, Canton, Miss. shot, charged with defending himself in fight with a lumber mill foreman; M. Eggleston, sometime in the spring of 1939, a national martime union official, New Orleans, La. drowned, alleged to have uncovered graft among certain reactionary union members.

The NAACP report added that many lynchings have not come to light because of the new technique adopted by lynch mobs, who spirit away their victims quietly without attendant publicity.

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NAACP Lists Five Lynched During 1939

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The N. A. A. C. P. report added that many lynchings have not come to light because of the new technique adopted by lynch mobs, who spirit away their victims quietly without attendant publicity.

Five Lynchings In '39, NAACP Report Shows

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The NAACP report added that many lynchings have not come to light because of the new technique adopted by lynch mobs, who spirit away their victims quietly without attendant publicity.

N. A. A. C. P. Cites Three Lynchings In 1940 In Answer To Women's Claim Of "Lynchless Year"

New York—Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to mid-night, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as "a "Lynchless Year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940 as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared i nthe April 6, 1940 issue of the Nation Magazine.

The list includes 1 woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follows

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a Lovers Lane and charged with immorality. Gaston was charged with drinking too much.

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Georgia grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this arear have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past twelve years.

Unpublicized Lynchings

The manner in which lynchings statistics may bedistorted to give

NAACP SAYS 5 LYNCHED DURING 1939

NEW YORK, Jan. 4—There were five persons, two of them white, lynched in the United States during 1939, according to a report announced here by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Last week a release from Taskegee set the lynch toll for 1939 at 3.

In only one case was the charge of molesting whites alleged. The other cases grew out of differences between employer and employee and an automobile accident. The NAACP report added that many lynchings have not come to light because of the new technique adopted by lynch mobs who spirit away their ictims quietly without attendant publicity.

5 Lynchings In 1939 On NAACP Records

2 Victims Were White

There were five persons, two of them white, lynched in the United States during 1939, according to a report made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Saturday.

In only one case was the charge of molesting whites alleged. The other cases grew out of difference be

...d and comfort to southern re-...ctionaries who "scream of states' ...ights," and tell us that "lynching ...s dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, Friday, May 4, four days prior to the announcement made by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching to the effect that the period from May 8, 1939 to May 9, 1940 represent a "lynchless year."

"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said, "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and main or kill him. If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year, entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a Southern white N. A. A. C. P. investigatior's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

Says Claim of "Lynchless Year" Is Not True

NAACP POINTS OUT THAT THREE MOB DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED DURING THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

New York, May 10.—Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939, to midnight, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "lynchless year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940, as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6, 1940, issue of the Nation magazine.

The list includes 1 woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a lovers lane and charged with immortality. Gaston was charged with drinking too much.

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton county, Georgia, grand jury had revealed that some 30 persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past 12 months.

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to southern reactionaries who "scream of states rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out" was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Ky., on Friday, May 4, four days prior to the announcement made by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching to the effect that the period from May 8 1939 to May 9, 1940 represents a lynchless year.

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Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year entitled, "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a southern white NAACP investigator's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 4, 1940

White Takes Issue.

New York, July 3.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, Ala., Negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

"On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. (All three were white persons.)

"On June 22 Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election."

Declaring that "such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for sabotage of such legislation," the telegram continued:

"Tuskegee should either establish machinery to get facts completely and accurately or stop issuing lynching figures."

The institute's department of records and research had reported eight lynchings in 1937, six in 1938, three in 1939 and none so far in 1940.

LYNCHLESS YEAR CLAIM NOT TRUE; NAACP CITES THREE

NEW YORK, May 16—Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to midnight, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "Lynchless Year", the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940, as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6, 1940 issue of the Nation Magazine.

Woman Mob Victim

The list includes 1 woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchinsg occurred follow:

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Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Georgia, grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past twelve years.

LYNCHINGS - 1940
N.A.A.C.P. REPORTS ON

6401

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 11, 1940

Negro Leader To Be Recalled For Proof Of Lynching Story

By GEORGE MORRIS
From The Commercial Appeal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Senator Tom Connolly of Texas plans to recall Walter White, negro secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and demand that he substantiate statements of wholesale lynchings in Mississippi or have his testimony expunged from the record.

Testifying before a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee in favor of a Federal Antilynching Bill, White related a story of the lynching of four negroes in Mississippi last year, near Cleveland.

Bodies Never Found

White described how the negroes were lynched and their bodies thrown in the river. The bodies never were found and the lynching was carried out with such secrecy that not even the families of the victims knew anything about it, according to the story. White said he got the story from a prominent, but unnamed, Southern white man.

Judging from the turn of events the purported victims, if they exist are equally ignorant of having been lynched.

Senator Harrison received telegrams from the Cleveland Exchange Club and the Cleveland American Legion post challenging the story and asking for proof.

Immediately upon receipt of the telegrams, Senator Harrison held a conference with Senator Connolly and turned the telegrams over to him.

Exposure Is Sought

Senator Harrison said that he thought the committee should go thoroughly into the charges of White, expose the obvious falsehood, and take such action as might be required.

Some are inclined to doubt whether anybody gave White the information he described as coming from a "prominent Southern white man." In order to carry out the farce, it was anticipated that White would stand on his rights to not divulge the name of his informant or the names of the imaginary victims.

There was a question as to whether he could be held in contempt by the committee for making palpably false statements by using an unnamed informant as a subterfuge.

Senator Connolly made it clear that White will be closely questioned.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
February 13, 1940

Let Him Produce Proof

In his effort to put over a Federal Antilynching Bill, an activity on which he has been engaged for many years, the negro secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People testified before a senatorial committee that four negroes were lynched near Cleveland, Miss., last year with such secrecy that not even the families of the victims knew anything about it.

He asserted that he got the fantastic story from a "prominent Southern white man."

Senator Connally proposes to recall the AntiLynch Bill lobbyist and attempt to get the facts. That should be done without delay. Had any such incident occurred as charged, The Commercial Appeal would have heard of it. The good people of Cleveland and Boliver County would have heard of it, and most certainly their law enforcement officers

We have been assured by E. D. Rayner, sheriff of Bolivar County, and J. L. Smith, former sheriff, that not only were there no lynchings in Bolivar County in 1939, but "there was not a single case of murder or manslaughter in which a negro was the victim of a white man."

Under ordinary conditions, considering the source, the story would not deserve the dignity of denial. At present, however, some Northern politicians, eager to tie up the negro vote in a congressional election year, apparently will stop at nothing to achieve their end and will make capital of any type of fiction thrown into the hopper in behalf of the AntiLynch Bill.

The good people of Bolivar County need no defense from us or anybody else. They, like the majority of Southern people, have been making an earnest effort to eliminate lynching and summary executions. None have been more zealous along those lines than Southern law enforcement officers. The record proves it.

The AntiLynch Bill lobbyist has made a grievous charge. Now let him prove it or be thoroughly discredited before certain elements in Congress with whom, up to now, his standing appears to have been exceptionally high. He is retarding rather than advancing the cause in which he is employed.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
April 5, 1940

Blood Will Be on Hands

From Walter White, negro of ability and cultivation, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, comes a letter—which we print—containing statements that prompt inquiry.

That lynchers have "developed a new technique, namely, suppression of news of their crimes," is also a new technique developed in propaganda for a federal "anti-lynching bill." This bill, in one or another form, has been introduced in congress fifteen or twenty years. All these years a negro institution (Tuskegee) has annually reported the number of lynchings. That its reports are now discredited by a negro association at the time that Democrats have joined Republicans in urging the legislation is suspicious, to speak mildly.

One doubts the publication of news of suppression of news.

The secretary speaks of 5,124 lynchings since 1882, not mentioning that it is a period of fifty-eight years. He does not mention that 1882 was five or six years after the "Reconstruction" period, when the South was in the plight of the Poland of 1940—worse plight indeed. We write from personal knowledge when we say that the legacy of that period was a legacy to the white ruffians, that it all but disarmed the brave efforts of better white men to restore and maintain order. that thirty years after 1865 "Willie" Gonzales newspaper reporter, and G. Duncan Bellinger, attorney general, were exposing their lives when lynchers were under prosecution in South Carolina.

In those years of disorder, respectable white men sometimes were lynchers, and two or three times white men were lynched—one lynching, of a white man and property-holder, was attended by 3,000 people of a district sixty miles square. It was an ugly time, and it was the legacy of war and Reconstruction.

The present insidious effort is for the Second Reconstruction of the South, and the National Democratic party, the Franklin Roosevelt party, leads in the effort.

In fifty-eight years 5,124 lynchings is an average of 88.4 a year; the average was made in the decades, three or four, following 1865; the annual number of lynchings in the United States is from six to ten. After 1918 was a brief resurgence of lynching and race conflict; it had its outbreaks in Omaha, Duluth, Kansas City, New York, Washington, Chicago, as well as in the South. No race riot has occurred in South Carolina since 1898.

Were the deaths from labor wars in the industrial districts of the North and West since 1882 numbered, would they be only 5,124? Why, the "Molly Maguires" were operating in Pennsylvania after 1882, if memory does not betray. These murders have not ceased. No bill to punish county officers on account of them is before congress. Policemen and sheriffs in Chicago are not dragged to United States courts. What percentage of killers of union laborers have been hanged?

The secretary's allies of the Northern "liberal" press incessantly denounce whole states, Massachusetts, Florida, among them, as "murderers". One has read the epithet applied to Massachusetts in the last two weeks. Is the design to destroy American states? It looks that way. That is the Second "Reconstruction", and its essence is the Wagner-Van Nuys bill.

State courts and officers prosecute "syndicated" murderers, organized companies murdering as a business, in great cities. State officers have not suppressed them. They break up one gang, and another, somewhere, is organized. If Walter White does not know this, he is more ignorant of the contents of the press of his own and other cities than we are.

State officers of the South have made more progress in suppressing lynching since 1882 than those of the North have made in suppressing "racketeering murder", in the fifty-eight years. There is excuse for it. The city crime problem is more complex and difficult than the rural problem, and still no "Bob" Wagner or Walter White urges the conversion of great cities and industrial areas into federal districts.

State courts are prosecuting so-called "klansmen" for murder in Georgia this day. The murder is not called a "lynching". The victim was white. Murder of white men by Southerners excites no indignation among the Northern "intelligentsia" unless the murder be in a labor outbreak. Then it is short-lived.

In a South Carolina court house, of a rural county, is a monument to a white sheriff who died defending a negro accused of rape. (There is no such monument in Coatesville, Pennsylvania, Springfield, Illinois, Wilmington, Delaware, in Kansas City Duluth, Marietta, in any Northern town where insenate mobs have done foul murder.

Black Dispatch
OCT 5 1940

LYNCHING IN LAGRANGE, GEORGIA, IS SIXTH FOR 1940, DECLARES N. A. A. C. P.

NEW YORK.—The lynching of 16-year-old Austin Callaway in LaGrange, Georgia, September 8, by a mob of six masked white men who forced the local jailer to release the boy from a cell, and then took him eight miles from town where he was shot to death, constitutes the sixth authenticated lynching of 1940, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced recently.

Young Callaway was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman. The complete list of 1940 lynchings, together with the dates, places and manner of lynching, follows: Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2, Lee Gaston, March 7 all white, all beaten to death at Atlanta, Georgia; Elbert Williams, June 20, drowned, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, shot to death, Luverne, Alabama; Austin Callaway, Sept. 8, shot to death, LaGrange, Georgia.

This anti-lynching bill is the beginning of the Second Reconstruction of the South. Franklin D. Roosevelt could kill it with a word which he won't speak. He needs the negro votes of New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Philadelphia, St. Louis. He is out to get them.

The Wagner-Van Nuys bill is a new declaration of war against the South.

The News and Courier, mindful of the sufferings of the Southern negroes, after the white victory won in part by intimidation and violence, in 1876, opposes it. The News and Courier is aware of its own long, wearying struggle for the protection of negroes against ruffianism. The Wagner-Van Nuys bill would tend to disarm it; to arm the ruffians. They don't lynch for hire. They are not "syndicates." They are not in murder for money. They lynch from inflamed passion and because a crime, real or imagined—often imagined—has been done. Enact this bill, and federal garrisons in Southern counties will again be demanded, on plausible grounds. The News and Courier opposes the bill in defence of the Southern negroes.

And The News and Courier tells Secretary Walter White that if his bill become the law of the land, the blood of multiplied numbers of lynched negroes will be on the hands of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and their white political partners of the North. The Second Reconstruction, like the first, would fail.

Refute Claim of No Lynchings This Year

NAACP Pushes Drive for Passage of Anti-Lynch Bill

Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to midnight, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "Lynchless Year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940 as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

Meanwhile, Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, was in Washington this week conferring with Senate leaders, including sponsors of the anti-lynching bill, in a desperate effort to secure a date for taking up the bill before Congress adjourns early in June.

The list includes one woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a Lovers Lane and charged with immorality. Gaston was charged drinking too much.

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Georgia grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past twelve years.

UNPUBLICIZED LYNCHINGS

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to southern reactionaries who "scream of states' rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, Friday, May 4.

"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said, "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and maim or kill him. If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Marshtll was referring to a report published in January of this year, entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a southern white N. A. A. C. P. investigator's story of how lynch victim are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

NAACP CITES 3 LYNCHINGS IN REPORT CHARGE

Mobs Just Using New Technique, Southern Women's Group Told

NEW YORK. — Refuting the statement released last Thursday, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to mid-night, 1940, may be regarded as a "lynchless year," the NAACP pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940 as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6, 1940 issue of the Nation Magazine.

The list includes one woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a lovers' lane and charged with immorality. Goston was charged with drinking too much.

30 Persons Beaten

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Ga. grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past 12 years.

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to southern reactionaries who "scream of states' rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Ky., Friday, May 4, four days prior to the announcement of lynching to the effect that the period from May 8, 1939 to May 9, 1940 represents a "lynchless year."

"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said, "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and maim or kill him. It it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year, entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a southern white NAACP investigator's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

Lynching In LaGrange, Georgia, Is Sixth For 1940, Declares NAACP

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
SEP 21 1940

NEW YORK, Sept. 19—The lynching of 16-year-old Austin Callaway in LaGrange, Ga., Sept. 8, by a mob of six masked white men who forced the local jailer to release the boy from a cell, and then took him eight miles from town where he was shot to death, constitutes the sixth authenticated lynching of 1940, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced here.

Young Calloway was accused of an attempted attack on a white woman. The complete list of 1940 lynchings, together with the dates, places and manner of lynching follows: Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, March 7, all white, all beaten to death at Atlanta, Ga.; Elbert Williams, June 20, drowned, Brownsville, Tenn.; Jesse Thornton, June 22, shot to death Luverne, Alabama; Austin Callaway, Sept. 8, shot to death, LaGrange, Ga.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
N.A.A.C.P. REPORTS ON

6482

N. A. A. C. P., Cites Three Lynchings To Refute Lynchless Year Claim

Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to mid-night, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "Lynchless Year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940, as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The list includes 1 woman and 2 men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

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Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Georgia grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past 12 years.

Unpublicized Lynchings

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"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said. "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and maim or kill him. If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out".

Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year, entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a Southern white N. A. A. C. P. investigator's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

NAACP Refutes Group's Claim of Lynchless Year

Cites 3 Georgia KKK Killings, New Quiet Mob Methods

NEW YORK.—Refuting a statement recently released by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the twelve-month period ending May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "lynchless year," the NAACP pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6 issue of the magazine Nation.

Woman Among Victims

The list includes one woman and two men, all white, who were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan.

On March 2, Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford of Atlanta, were taken from their parked automobile in a lovers' lane and charged with immorality. Ike Gaston, a barber, was charged with drinking too much.

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to Southern reactionaries who "scream of States' rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the NAACP, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Ky., on May 4.

"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said. "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and maim or kill him.

"If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Miss. Lynchings Traced to Greedy Landlords

NEW YORK—Praising the recent antilynching broadcast sponsored by the NAACP, a worker in Mississippi told the association in a letter last week, that the real factor responsible for lynchings in the South is the Southern landlord who "will take what you make and the government check when it comes too."

Giving the lie to those Southern leaders who say that the States are proving that they can "handle lynchers," and that there is "no need to pass an anti-lynching bill," the writer of the letter said:

"I just want to give some point on what brings about lynching in teh South. It is the unjust landlord. When it (the check) comes they will not let you see how much the check calls for. We will have to sign it, and if we speak about the check they are ready to shoot us down."

Three Lynchings In Georgia

In a current news release the N. A. A. C. P. states that three people have been lynched in Georgia during 1940. No doubt that allegation is going to start something.

We haven't forgotten an experience we had last year about a lynching in Georgia. At that time we published an account of a lynching which came to us from the parents and other relatives of the alleged lynch victim. In this our attitude in the matter was the same as any other newspaper seeking to publish such unfortunate happenings truthfully and accurately.

The white press and a handful of crackers denied the report and denounced us for printing it. This, to us, was nothing more than we expected, but the surprise came when the Negro papers, and especially those here in Georgia, joined the white press in crucifying us on the cross of bitter castigation.

However, we took it, knowing that eventually the real truth about the mob situation in Georgia would be told. The N. A. A. C. P. has made a darn good attempt in this current release, but we doubt seriously that the number is limited to three. However our hope now is that the hell raised by this release will not cause the N. A. A. C. P. to stop telling the truth about the situation even if the soft pedaling, Uncle Tom, hot-in-hand Negro editors do join in the hue and cry—they can't help themselves.

3 Lynched By KKK In 'Lynchless' 12 Months

NEW YORK, N. Y.—Three lynchings that occurred in Georgia during the past year, May 8, 1939, to May 8, 1940, were cited by the NAACP as an answer to a statement issued last week by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, who claimed that a "Lynchless Year" had been completed in the South.

"Lynching is not dying out," stated Thurgood Marshall, counsel for the NAACP, at a mass meeting held in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 4, four days prior to the announcement made by the Women's Association.

"Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons now kidnap the victim and kill him and sink the body in water with heavy weights. Those kind are not reported and so they claim lynching is dying out," Marshall said.

Three Whites Lynched

The story of the three lynchings which occurred was printed in the April 16, 1940, issue of the "Nation Magazine."

The list includes 1 woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow.

Sarah Rawls, March 2; Benton Ford, March 2; Ike Gaston, a white barber, March 7. Miss Rawls and Ford were taken from their parked automobile in a Lovers' Lane and charged with immorality. Gaston was charged with drinking too much.

Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton County, Georgia, grand jury had revealed that some thirty persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past twelve years.

NO LYNCHLESS YEAR, NAACP REPORT SAYS

Association Points To 4 Mobbings In State Of Georgia

NEW YORK—Refuting the statement released Thursday, May 9, by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, that the period from May 8, 1939 to midnight, May 8, 1940, may be regarded as a "Lynchless Year," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pointed to three lynchings, all of which took place in Georgia during the month of March, 1940 as evidence that this period was by no means barren of this crime.

The story of these lynchings appeared in the April 6, 1940 issue of the Nation Magazine.

The list includes one woman and two men (all white). All were beaten to death by mobs, dominated by or made up of members of the Ku Klux Klan. All the lynchings took place in or near Atlanta, Ga. The list and the dates when the lynchings occurred follow:

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Association officials also pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Fulton county, Ga., grand jury had revealed that some 30 persons in this area have been beaten by mobs and the Ku Klux Klan during the past 12 months.

Unpublicized Lynchings

The manner in which lynching statistics may be distorted to give aid and comfort to southern reactionaries who "scream of states rights," and tell us that "lynching is dying out," was revealed by Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in a speech before a mass meeting held in Louisville, Ky., Friday, May four days prior to the announcement made by the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching to the effect that the period from May 8, 1939 to May 9, 1940 represents a "lynchless year."

New Technique

"Lynching is not dying out," the lawyer said, "Lynchers have merely adopted the subcommittee technique. Instead of a large, noisy mob, a small group of five or six persons will kidnap the victim and maim or kill him. If it is a killing party, the body is sunk in water with heavy weights. Those kind aren't reported and so they tell us that lynching is dying out."

Marshall was referring to a report published in January of this year entitled "Lynching Goes Underground," which reveals a southern white N.A.A.C.P. investigator's story of how lynch victims are done away with quietly by a few persons instead of by large mobs.

Asheville, N. C., Citizen
July 4, 1940

SAYS TUSKEGEE LYNCH REPORT IS INACCURATE

NEW YORK, July 3. (AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee Institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

"On March 2 Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by a mob in the same city. (All three were white persons).

"On June 22 Elbert Williams, negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election."

Declaring that "such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for sabotage of such legislation," the telegram continued:

"Tuskegee should either establish machinery to get facts completely and accurately or stop issuing lynching figures."

The institute's department of records and research had reported eight lynchings in 1937, six in 1938, three in 1939 and none so far in 1940.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 4, 1940

Lynching Data Hotly Disputed

Tuskegee Institute Figures Disputed by National Association Official

Washington, July 3.—(AP)—Representative Hobbs, Democrat, Alabama, informed the House today that there had not been a single lynching in the United States during the first six months of this year.

"This proves again," Hobbs said, "that that crime is being utterly eradicated by the only force that can eradicate it—namely, enlightened local public sentiment."

Specific Instances Of Lynchings Cited

New York, July 3.—(AP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today vigorously took issue with a Tuskegee Institute report that there had been no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

In a telegram to Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee, Ala., Negro school, Walter White, association secretary, said:

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Asheville, N. C., Times
July 5, 1940

Tuskegee Data On Lynchings Called False

NEW YORK, July 5.—(UP)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People said today it had not yet received a reply from Tuskegee institute, which the association criticized in a statement on lynchings issued July 3.

The association took issue with an institute statement which said no lynchings had occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1940. The association adduced several instances of lynchings and floggings in that period and said it was "inexpressibly shocked" by the institute's report.

"Such inexcusable statements by the institute," the association said, "do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bills ammunition for the sabotage of such legislation."

SEVEN LYNCHINGS ALREADY THIS YEAR ARE CITED

Administration Talks Democracy but Does Nothing, is Charge

NEW YORK—Letters requesting action on the anti-lynching bill before the adjournment of Congress were sent this week to fourteen key Senators of both parties by the NAACP.

A special request was made of the three senators sponsoring the bill in the Senate, Robert E. Wagner, New York; Arthur Capper, Kansas; and Frederick Van Nuys, Indiana.

Senator Van Nuys wired that he would consult with Senator Wagner on the matter, but that he did not have much hope of any action. Senator Capper said he was doing everything he could to bring up the bill, and would follow Senator Wagner's lead.

Senator Vanderberg of Michigan wrote that he would consult with Senator Wagner and lend any aid he could, but explained that even if Congress did not adjourn, a recess until after election was inevitable.

Cites Lynchings

The NAACP letter cited seven lynchings during 1940. The list was announced recently as six, but since that time a killing at Dyersburg, Tenn., August 3, has been verified as a lynching, making the seventh of 1940. Roosevelt Jones, 26, was the victim.

In a statement made this week, the NAACP blamed the administration for failure to act on the bill.

"Twice in the last three years the House has passed this bill by votes of almost 2 to 1," the statement said. "The Senate staged a disgraceful filibuster lasting seven weeks in early 1938. After the House passed the bill a second time, the Senate has refused to act to bring it up for a vote. We feel that the Administration could have got this bill to the floor if it had wanted to do so.

"In recent years our President and our State Department have issued statements rebuking what they call the forces of brutality and dictatorship in all parts of the world. They have read Sunday school lectures to other nations. They have talked about democracy but they have chosen to ignore the dastardly crime of lynching in our own backyard.

"America can never stand as an example to other nations on the treatment of minority peoples as long as human beings are shot, hanged and roasted to death here without the federal government lifting a finger to do anything about it. Hitler has a perfect right to sneer at our statements as long as we handle our minorities in much the same manner that he handles his.

"Perhaps the most shameful lynching of this year occurred in Brownsville, Tenn., in June, when a peaceful, law-abiding colored citizen was done to death for the enormous crime of attempting to register so that he could vote in the Presidential election of November 5! Brownsville, Tenn., is a picture of our democracy in a nutshell and will remain so until our government does something to punish lynchers."

LYNCHINGS-1940
PREVENTED

ALABAMA

6481

Ala. Youth Moved From Clutches Of Angry Mob

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—John [illegible] was placed in Kilby prison for safekeeping last week after being brought here by officers who feared a Barbour county posse might lynch him.

Accused of the slaying of Spurgeon Knight, farmer and cotton gin operator near Blue Springs, Tuesday night, Jackson was trailed by bloodhounds and arrested by Sheriff Pitt Williams and two deputies from Barbour county.

State highway patrolmen, who filed murder charges against Jackson after he allegedly confessed the killing, declared "an angry crowd" of more than 500 men sought him.

CHANGE OF VENUE IN TRIAL IS DENIED

CLAYTON, Ala., July 22—(AP)—Circuit Judge J. S. Williams today denied a change of venue for trial of John Ellis Jackson, 18, Negro, on a charge of murder, and ordered the taking of testimony to begin when court opens tomorrow.

Sale of beer in this Barbour County town was banned and 10 state highway patrolmen stood guard as the Negro was called up to face a charge of fatally stabbing his employer, Spurgeon Knight, Blue Springs planter.

Although about 700 people were in town for the trial, and Sheriff R. P. Williams said "there have been some threats," the day passed without untoward incident. The sheriff said the threats were not made by "our best people" and that beer sales were banned and highway patrolmen placed on duty as "precautionary" measures.

Knight was slain July 2. Jackson sought all night by a crowd of 500 men, was run down by three officers with track dogs the next day and sent to Kilby Prison at Montgomery for safe keeping. He was quoted by officers as saying he stabbed the white man when the latter struck him and threatened him with a knife.

The Negro entered a plea or innocent by reason of self defense when arraigned today.

See Crime
Alabama — f. a
lynching prevented in-

17

6482

LYNCHINGS-1940
PREVENTED

ALABAMA

Murder Suspect Rushed To Kilby

Advertiser

Sheriff Ben Reeves, of Pike County, said tonight that Man Stephens, negro, had been brought to Kilby Prison "for safe keeping" following the death of Clyde Fleming, 40, a white man.

5-24-40

Reeves said he had heard "conflicting stories" about an altercation which ended in the fatal shooting of Fleming, and that while there was "no indication" of violence against the negro he "thought it best" to bring him here.

Funeral services for Fleming will be held Friday at 3 p.m. (C. S. T.) from the Shiloh Church. Burial will be in the Shiloh cemetery with Jackson Funeral Home, of Brundidge, in charge.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Fleming, of the Shiloh community; daughter, Miss Dorothy Fleming, of North Carolina; two brothers, Claude Fleming, of Elba, Sam Fleming, of Cairo, Ga.

MOB OF 500 THWARTED

Courier

7-12-40

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 11 (Special)—While an angry crowd of more than 500 white men sought him in the Blue Springs section of Barbour county, as the slayer of Spurgeon Knight, white farmer and cotton gin operator, John Ellis Jackson, 18-year-old youth, was taken into custody by county officers and State Highway Patrolmen Wednesday night, and brought to Kilby Prison here for safekeeping.

Following his arrival at the prison, the youth is said to have made a statement admitting he had stabbed the farmer by whom he was employed, but that he did so only when Knight, after striking him repeatedly, attacked him with a knife. Knight succumbed a few hours after receiving the single stab wound which severed a large vein causing an internal [illegible]

Alabama Boy Saved From Angry Mob

Call

7-12-40

Canton, Miss

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—John B. Jackson, 18, was placed in Kilby prison for safekeeping today after being brought here by officers who feared a Barbour county posse might lynch him.

Accused of the slaying of Spurgeon Knight, farmer and cotton gin operator near Blue Springs Tuesday night, Jackson was trailed by bloodhounds and arrested by Sheriff Pitt Williams and two deputies from Barbour county.

State Highway patrolmen who filed murder charges against Jackson after he allegedly confessed the killing, declared [illegible] crowd" of more than 500 men sought him.

Anniston, Ala. Star
July 4, 1940

Negro is Guarded Against Lynching

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 4. (U.P.)—John Ellis Jackson, 18-year-old Barbour County Negro, was in Kilby prison for safekeeping today after being sought here by officers who feared a posse might lynch him.

Jackson is accused of slaying Spurgeon Knight, farmer and cotton gin owner, near Blue Springs Tuesday night.

The Negro was trailed by bloodhounds into adjoining Dale County and arrested by Sheriff Pitt Williams and two deputies from Barbour County.

Highway patrolmen who brought the Negro here said an "angry crowd" of more than 500 men sought the Negro who, they said, confessed killing Knight and claimed the latter struck him several times and attempted to stab him.

SUSPECT IN SLAYING CAPTURED BY POSSE

SEP 23 1940

Negro Charged With Murder Of Dumas Constable

Commercial Appeal

TILLAR, Ark., Sept. 22.—(AP)—James Dillard, 31-year-old negro, wanted in connection with the fatal shooting of Constable Joe H. Breedlove, 43, of Dumas, was captured late Saturday in a cypress brake near here by a posse which was led to his hiding place by bloodhounds.

Sheriff Howard Clayton of Desha County, announcing that a first degree murder charge had been filed against Dillard, immediately took the negro to an unannounced jail.

Memphis, Tenn

Mr. Breedlove died Saturday in a Dumas hospital. He was shot when he entered a dwelling occupied by negroes Thursday during a search for an escaped negro prisoner.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 14, 1940

Alabama Press

MOB SPIRIT NOT DEAD

While the nation was rejoicing over a report that not a single lynching occurred in the first six months of this year, Barbour Countians had ample proof that the mob spirit still lives.

Had it not been for the alertness of Sheriff Williams and his aides Barbour County's record would have been blackened by a posse of men enraged over the cruel murder of a popular and outstanding citizen.

Modern methods of tracking down criminals and spiriting them to places of safety should be given major credit for averting lynchings and curbing mob spirit rather than a reformed or uplifted citizenry.—Eufaula Tribune.

MOB FRUSTRATED, ALLEGED SLAYER CARRIED TO JAIL

Arkansas Robbery - Killing Quickly Followed by Confession

(The Associated Press)

Hope, Ark., Aug. 23.—A small detachment of state police and county officers working at high speed during the night and morning today solved a mystery killing, captured a Negro they said confessed the crime and then outwitted a pursuing mob of white men who sought to take the prisoner in their own hands.

Sergeant F. V. Haynie of the state police notified Hope authorities at noon today that the Negro was safe in jail. Haynie announced the prisoner confessed robbing and fatally beating Orville Cox, 22-year-old white farmer, here last night.

No formal charge had been filed against the negro shortly after noon.

The story of the rapid-fire action as relayed by Haynie was:

The Negro slugged Cox with a crowbar wrapped in a gunny-sack and took possession of the white man's money and truck. Loading the unconscious man in the truck, he started east but wrecked the machine.

A group of white people saw the wreck, extricated the Negro and Cox from the overturned vehicle. The Negro volunteered to go for medical aid and made his getaway. When he failed to return, Cox was taken to a Prescott hospital where he died today. Officers were notified and began a search for the Negro and at the same time a mob of about 20 white men started on an independent hunt for the Negro.

The officers captured the Negro this morning, recovering the crowbar, gunny-sack and his bloodstained clothing as well as the money stolen from Cox. Haynie said the Negro confessed when confronted with the evidence.

En route back to Hope with their prisoner, the officers were sighted by the mob. A highway chase resulted in which the officers finally succeeded in outdistancing their pursuers and safely lodging the prisoner in an undisclosed jail.

NEGRO SPIRITED AWAY FROM MOB NEAR HOPE

Accused Of Slaying Nevada County Farmer

HOPE, Ark., Aug. 23.—(AP)—A 24-year-old negro was held in an undisclosed Southwest Arkansas jail Friday night, accused of robbing and fatally beating Orville Cox, 22, farmer of Falcon, Nevada County.

A detachment of state police and a deputy sheriff, headed by Sergt. F. V. Haynie, captured the negro early Friday, obtained an oral confession from him and then rushed him to the jail when a mob of approximately 20 men, who also had been hunting the negro, got on their trail.

Mr. Haynie said Mr. Cox was knocked unconscious by the negro near Bodcaw Thursday night and was being driven east in his own truck when the negro wrecked it. A group of white people extricated the two from the wreckage, thinking them both victims of an accident. The negro, uninjured, volunteered to go for aid. When he did not return, officers started a search for him.

Mr. Cox died at a Prescott hospital Friday. Mr. Haynie and three other officers reported they caught the negro, recovered an iron bar used to slug Mr. Cox, the money stolen from him and obtained an oral confession to the fatal attack. While en route to Hope with the negro, the officers encountered the mob, were pursued but managed to make their escape to safety.

NEGRO IS SENTENCED TO DIE FOR ASSAULT

NOV 23 1940

Jury Decides Fate In 10 Minutes At Augusta

Special to The Commercial Appeal

AUGUSTA, Ark., Nov. 22.—A jury in Circuit Court here took just 10 minutes early Friday night to find John Mooney, 27-year-old negro, guilty of the assault murder of Ruby Montgomery, 17-year-old farm girl, last July 21.

Judge M. Pipkin of Helena sentenced the negro to die in the electric chair Jan. 24.

The case was given to the jury, of which Arthur Hicks of Cotton Plant was foreman, at 8:40 p.m.

A detail of seven state policemen guarded the courtroom and searched all spectators attending the trial for firmarms as there was talk of mob violence after the negro's capture.

The negro appeared unconcerned and read a newspaper while the jury was deciding his fate. His left ar mis paralyzed from a shotgun blast when he was pactured.

The prisoner was brought here early Friday by state police from the Pulaski County jail at Little Rock, where he had been held for safe keeping.

Two negroes, Hardy Harston and Albert Night, were on the jury.

The principal prosecution witness was Estelle Austin, negro woman who at the last term of court was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary for harboring Mooney after he is alleged to have committed the crime.

Another star prosecution witness was Lucient Flannery, 14-year-old farm youth who was with Miss Montgomery when she was attacked on a bridge on a lonely road 12 miles from here as they returned home from church. The boy was knocked unconscious by the killer, who dragged the girl into a nearby field, where she was found dying several hours later.

District Attorney Elma Taylor of Searcy was in charge of the prosecution. The negro was represented by Ross Mathis, Ford Smith and William Dungan, who were appointed by the court.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

FLORIDA

6488

Negroes Are Held In Death Of Pair

Men Placed In Safekeeping Pending Inquiry

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Feb. 19 (AP) Four Negroes were placed in the state prison at Raiford today for safekeeping while Leon county officers investigated the slaying of a constable and his deputy here.

Sheriff Frank Stoutamire said one of the Negroes, booked as John Holliday, had admitted he fatally shot Constable T. B. (Doc) Oppert and Clyde Sauls, his deputy, when they attempted to arrest him last night.

Another Negro, Herman Tucker, also was taken into custody but no charge had been made against him. Two others, listed as Philip Tucker and Robert Scaddock, were taken to Raiford on orders of W. Branch Cone, the governors secretary.

Sheriff Stoutamire said Holliday took full responsibility for the shooting and absolved others of blame.

Sheriff Stoutamire said there had been no threat of mob violence against the Negroes but "I just decided to take them to Raiford to be safe."

LYNCHING -1940
PREVENTED

GEORGIA

6483

Grady Negro Held in Jail On Rape Count

CAIRO, Aug. 26 — Heywood Henderson, a 24-year-old Grady county Negro, is being held in an unannounced jail on a charge of criminally assaulting an 11-year-old white girl at the home of her parents a few miles southeast of Cairo late Saturday night, Deputy Sheriff C. H. Strickland said Monday.

Stricklan dsaid that he, assisted by L. W. Ward, deputy warden at the state highway camp here, and State Troopers D. M. Jones and John L. Holleman, arrested the Negro at his home about an hour after the alleged crime was committed.

Confession Rumored

Strickland said that he, assistor deny reports that he has obtained a confession and until Monday declined to comment on reports that an arrest had been made.

The deputy said the Negro broke into the home while the girl and her mother were there alone and the mother ran, crying for help, toward an amusement place which her husband operates about a quarter of a mile away.

The father reached the home in time to fire upon the fleeing Negro four times in the darkness without a hit, Strickland said he was told.

Despite the late night hour, a number of citizens gathered near the home, but by quick work the officers made the arrest and spirited the Negro away before the excitement subsided.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

ILLINOIS

6489

NEGRO STOPS LYNCHING OF CULT MEMBER

Barber Tells How Life Was Saved

LITCHFIELD, Ill., June 27—(ANP)—Of the 65 members of "Jehovah's Witnesses," who arrived here last Sunday to spread their teachings, at least one was prevented from being lynched, when infuriated townspeople attacked them, by a Negro resident of Litchfield, who pleaded for them with mercy. This was revealed by Frank Colombos, a St. Louis barber and member of the cult for 14 years. Colombos, who arrived in Litchfield with representatives of the cult, said:

"The mob had beaten some of the men and pushed the women when suddenly there were cries of 'lynch them.' I thought if it was God's will that we be lynched we couldn't do anything about it. But there was a Negro standing near me who called out to the mob, 'We're all human. They're human. Let's think this matter over.' And that statement stayed the mob's hands until deputies could get there." Colombos, 50, said it was the "scariest day of his life."

Refused to Salute Flag

State police, called from Springfield, arrived and removed the witnesses to Hillsboro, county seat of Montgomery county, where they were fingerprinted and permitted to return to St. Louis. The affray at Litchfield began when cult members began to distribute leaflets, containing the statement, "We don't salute the American flag or any other flag." Charges that schools were under the influence of the "Roman Catholic hierarchy" also were contained in the pamphlets.

At their last previous visit to Litchfield on June 1, the Witnesses were ordered out and warned not to return. On Sunday their presence spread rapidly, and the town's men left church to disperse them. Litchfield, although near a coal mining region, is not a mining town. It is an agricultural and industrial community, with 7,000 population, and with factories of the Brown Shoe company and the American Radiator company.

6490

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

ILLINOIS

Prevents Lynching Of White Cultist

LITCHFIELD, ILL.,—(ANP) Of the 65 members of "Jehovah's Witnesses, who arrived here last Sunday to spread their teachings, at least one was prevented from being lynched, when infuriated townspeople attacked them, by a Negro, resident of Litchfield, who pleaded with them with mercy. This was revealed by Frank Colombos, a St. Louis' barber and member of the cult for 15 years. Colombos, who arrived in Litchfield with representatives of the cult said:

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6491

LYNCHING - 1940
PREVENTED

INDIANA

Jail Guarded After Indiana Feud Slaying

NOV 1 1940

Salem, Ind., Oct. 31 (AP).—The fatal shooting of a witness as he emerged from the grand jury room in the Washington County courthouse brought a state police guard today around the jail where his slayer is lodged. Chicago

William Gibson, 45 years old, wealthy land owner, was the slain man. He was the brother of four men who figured in a southern Indiana feud in 1931. Tribune

Sheriff Witnesses Killing.

Sheriff Charles W. Moore said he saw the shooting, which took place yesterday, and that it was done by Arch Bishop, 41, whom he disarmed immediately and placed in jail. Moore reported that Bishop admitted the slaying. Chicago

Sheriff Moore said the grand jury was investigating a disturbance last Saturday night at a tavern at Millport owned by Gibson which ended with Gibson's firing a shot into an automobile occupied by Bishop's son. No one was wounded. Ill.

Bishop already had testified before the grand jury and was waiting in a courthouse corridor when Gibson came out.

Raid on Jail Recalled.

The sheriff said he could not reach Bishop in time to prevent the shooting. Gibson was unarmed.

The killer was placed in the same jail from which Gibson's brothers made a futile attempt to remove two men charged with killing their father, Patton Gibson, nine years ago. The prisoners, John and Pleas Spurlock, were not harmed, but Odie Gibson was killed and Sheriff Milton Trinkle and his wife were wounded in the assault on the jail. Alonzo, Dan, and Gilfred Gibson escaped to the surrounding hills, but later surrendered and served short terms for second degree burglary.

The Gibson and Spurlock families were said to have been enemies before moving here from Kentucky.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

MARYLAND

6492

2

GOVERNOR SHIFTS 2 NEGRO WOMEN TO ANOTHER JAIL

Acts After Troopers Take Them from Mob.

Snow Hill, Md., Feb. 14 (AP).—Two Negro women, taken from jail by a mob last night and subsequently rescued by state troopers, were taken today to the Bel Air jail across Chesapeake bay on Maryland's western shore. This eastern shore community, meanwhile, returned to normalcy after a night of wild disorder.

At least 75 police and civilians continued to search a nearby swamp on foot and horseback for the last Negro suspect sought for questioning in the slaying Sunday night of Harvey Pilchard, 61 years old, a farmer. Pilchard's wife, Annie, was shot at the time her husband was killed.

Governor Issues Order.

In Baltimore, Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor announced the two women and also two Negro men suspects had been taken to Bel-Air at his orders. "I assume full responsibility for their safekeeping," the governor declared.

One member of the mob was shot in the melee which resulted when state police rescued the women.

Calls Shooting Justified.

Gov. O'Conor asserted a preliminary investigation convinced him that the shooting was in self-defense and completely justified. The mob, he said, was armed with bats and fenceposts.

Sheriff J. William Hall said at least 40 members of the mob had been identified, but that there has been no demand for action against the mob.

"We have no plan of action now. We know the ringleaders, and feel that the situation is well in hand," the sheriff added.

STATE TROOPS GUARD NEGRO FROM VIOLENCE

Maryland Slaying Suspect Is Captured In Woods

SNOW HILL, Md., Feb. 16.—(UP)—A posse headed by state troopers today captured Arthur Collick, negro suspect in the slaying of Harry W. Pilchard, wealthy Worcester County farmer, and spirited him away to an unidentified jail.

The negro was run to earth in a densely timbered area near Girdle Tree, where he apparently had been hiding since Sunday night when he allegedly killed the 61-year-old farmer, ravished Mrs. Pilchard, and then shot her when she attempted to flee.

Several hundred citizens armed with guns, knives, stones and clubs had been hunting the fugitive, intending to hang him. Monday the mob broke into the Snow Hill Jail and seized Collick's common-law wife and daughter who had been arrested as material witnesses. Troopers rescued the women after a pitched battle with the crowd.

Third Suspect Is Hunted In Maryland Case

2 Women Rescued From Mob Removed To Safe Quarters

SNOW HILL, MD., Feb. 14.—(AP)—State troopers searched in a cold, blizzard-swept swamp today for another suspect wanted in a farmer's slaying after two negro women, rescued from an angry mob last night, had been placed in the safety of a jail at Bel Air, Md.

A posse of about 75 officers and civilians ringed the swamp, surrounded and predicted the storm and fast-dropping temperature would drive the suspect from hiding. Visibility at times was reduced to 25 yards by the heavy snowfall, intermittently swirling and drifting.

Under the alert watch of State police, this eastern shore area showed no signs of last night's disorder in which a mob estimated officially at 1,000 men smashed at the Worcester County jail. They took the women in a threatened avenging of the death Sunday of Harvey W. Pilchard, 61, and the wounding of his wife, Annie, at their home in nearby Stockton.

The women, from whom the mob sought to learn the identity and whereabouts of the slayers, were taken to the Harford County jail in Bel Air on orders of Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor, who announced he was assuming "full responsibility" for their safekeeping.

Also in jail at Bel Air were two negro men, one of whom was removed from the Worcester jail just before the mob stormed it. The other had been held at Salisbury, Md.

The women—Martha Lake, 31, and her daughter, Lillian Virginia, 14—walked out of the swamp and surrendered yesterday to men on guard. Police said they were companions of the suspect still being sought.

Funeral services for Pilchard were held this afternoon at the Girdle Tree Baptist Church. More than 100 mourners stood through the snow storm in the church yard for his interment.

In a Salisbury, Md., hospital Mrs. Pilchard was reported "somewhat improved" from a pistol wound inflicted when she attempted to flee from three negroes she told police invaded their farm home and demanded money.

Sheriff J. William Hall said at least 40 members of the raiding party had been identified.

"There has been no demand for action against the mob," he added. "We have no plan of action now. We know the ringleaders and feel that the situation is well in hand."

"It is not my job to lead the investigation here," said State's Attorney William Perbin. "My only task is to prepare cases against such persons as may be arrested by the sheriff. We have not heard any complaints from any parties, nor have we had any formal charges filed with us."

Maryland Jail Is Mobbed; Two Women Are Kidnaped

Noisy Crowd Pulls Screaming Negresses From Cells And Speed Away

SNOW HILL, Md., Feb. 13 (AP)—A noisy crowd of men broke into the Worcester county jail through a window tonight, pulled out a cell block door with a rope, and seized two Negro women held in connection with the slaying Sunday night of an elderly Eastern Shore farmer.

The crowd placed the women in automobiles and headed toward Stockton, home of the farmer and his wife, who was wounded seriously when three Negroes entered their home demanding money.

For several hours the crowd had milled about outside the little red brick building, apparently had been quieted once by Sheriff J. William Hall, but came back to get the women.

The screaming women cowered in their cells as a half dozen men smashed through the screened window. They carried a rope and a little while afterward those outside seized the line and began tugging and hauling. Within a few minutes they had got the women from their cells and dragged them through the window.

The men talked to the girls and from them ascertained who had done the shooting.

Earlier a Negro man who had been taken into custody this afternoon was reported held in the Worcester jail, but when the crowd first gathered Sheriff Hall let them pass through the lock-up. The officers already had spirited him away to an unannounced destination.

Apparently satisfied that the man was not there, the crowd began to disperse, only to gather in greater numbers about an hour later.

"How would you like this around your neck?" some shouted.

Others were of a different frame of mind and begged that the women be let alone. "Don't lay a hand on them. Let 'em alone," one cries. There was a division in the ranks, but those determined to get the prisoners moved across the lawn and began tossing bricks through the window.

Gov. Herbert O'Conor, receiving a report of the disturbance at his office in Annapolis, ordered all state police cars to move to Snow Hill at once, but no reinforcements had arrived when the release was effected.

Some state police stood about when the crowd assembled early tonight, ready to aid Sheriff Hall and his deputies.

Davids Vindicate the Law

Four troopers of the Maryland state patrol faced a mob of 1 thousand angry men and rescued two Negro women who had been taken from the Worcester county jail.

The disturbance was the outcome of an attack by three Negroes on a farmer who was shot to death Sunday night in the course of a robbery, while his wife was gravely wounded.

Two Negro men who were suspected of the crime were spirited from the jail to a place of safety. When the mob discovered that they had been outwitted in that respect, they seized the two Negro women who had been held for investigation and dragged them from the jail.

It was near the scene of the murder that the mob was overtaken by the four state patrolmen and the women rescued. In spite of the tremendous odds against them, the law officers did their work swiftly and well.

Several important lessons emerge from this incident. In the first place, the average mob is cowardly in the last degree. A determined show of force is usually enough to send it packing.

The Negro women held for investigation were relied upon to furnish valuable testimony in the case against the real murderers and their death would have gone far toward crippling the prosecution.

Also, we see how little excuse there is for the anti-lynching bill now pending in congress.

The number of lynchings in the South has diminished almost to the vanishing point. Officers of the law, time and again, have succeeded in protecting their prisoners. Thus the anti-lynching bill is revealed as the political clap-trap it has long been known to be.

When mob violence in the North is put on the same footing as that in the South the bill's sponsors will have more claims to sincerity, but even so it is a mischievous measure and will do more harm than good. It should be killed once for all.

Saved From Maryland Mob



Mrs. Martha Blake, 31, and her daughter, Lillian, 14, were seized from the county jail at Snow Hill, Md., by a milling mob of 1,000 men, and later rescued by state troopers in a stiff fight. The women were being held for investigation in connection with the slaying of a farmer. Several members of the mob, it was learned, were later sworn in as members of a posse now scouring Maryland woods in search of slayers.

Charlotte, N. C., News
February 17, 1940

Case Report

Maryland Shows How To Prevent A Lynching

Maryland demonstrates it again: you can prevent lynching if the community at large wants it prevented.

An atrocious crime had been committed near Snow Hill, in the Eastern Shore. Three Negroes had shot to death a farmer, gravely wounded his wife. Two Negro women were held for questioning. There is no indication that they were principals to the crime, but the mob, as usual, was not bothered with such details. It wanted victims — any black victims. For hours it swarmed about the jail, then whipped its nerve to the point of smashing a window, ripping a cell door from hinges, and seizing the two women.

But it reckoned without its host. As it prepared for the crime four Maryland state troopers came upon the scene. The mob numbered more than a thousand. But the four coppers had no doubt about what their duty was and no hesitancy about doing it. They swarmed in, cracked heads, had some of their own cracked, but emerged with the women, hurried them away to Delaware and safety.

It destroys the whole legend that cops cannot deal with mobs which greatly outnumber them. Mobs are invariably cowardly, and often one determined man is quite enough to subdue a thousand lynchers, who know in their hearts that they are simply so many murderous criminals, whose lives are bought and paid for if they attempt to shoot it out, who fear the hot seat if they kill a cop.

And if the four Maryland cops were determined, you may be sure it was because they knew that public opinion in Maryland demanded and expected it, for cops are perfect barometers of public opinion. Maryland has had only one lynching in a good many years, plainly doesn't intend to have any more if vigilance can prevent it — as it almost invariably can.

LYNCH MOB IN MD. ON RAMPAGE!

Courier

SNOW HILL, Md., Feb. 22.—A Maryland "lynch mob" which became a posse with power to "kill" a fugitive who resisted arrest was frustrated in its efforts late last Friday when Maryland State police captured Arthur Collick, fugitive suspect in the murder of a white farmer, and spirited him to the jail at Bel Air, Md.

Collick was betrayed by his pet dog, who led the troopers to his hiding place in a thicket. For several days he had been hunted by a mob, which at times numbered as high as 2,000.

Governor Herbert O'Conor, who dispatched 54 State troopers to the Eastern Shore, when mob violence threatened, ordered all but 17 men to return to their stations.

WIFE AND DAUGHTER ARE TAKEN FROM JAIL

Tuesday night, Mrs. Marjorie Collick and her 14-year-old daughter, Lillian, who had been detained in jail for questioning, were dragged from the ground floor window at the end of a rope after members of a mob numbering more than 1,000 whites, had battered their way into the County Jail.

The mother and daughter were taken from an automobile in which they were being rushed to an unknown destination by State troopers after a ten-mile chase. Both were hysterical. The mob gave the woman and her daughter up only after a pitched battle.

slayers of an aged white store keeper in swamps surrounding the countryside.

A snowstorm propelled by a 40 mile gale ripped through the countryside, driving the 75-man posse to shelter, but they declared they would resume their search as soon as the weather cleared.

Meanwhile four other colored persons—two men and two women—were held at the Hartford county jail at Bel Air for investigation in the shooting.

Troopers Rescue Women

The women were taken to jail after their rescue by state troopers the night before from the mob at Stockton. The mob had seized the two women Tuesday night, broke all the jail's locks and told 18 other Negro prisoners they could go free, it was learned later.

Sixteen, including Hazell Purnell and Dallas Holden, both held in another slaying, refused to go, said Jailer Gordon Bowen. The two accepting the offer of freedom, Louis Barley and Lawrence Adkins, charged with larceny, were caught soon afterward, a few miles away.

Identify 40 in Mob

Sheriff H. William Hall said at least 40 members of the raiding party had been identified, adding, "There has been no demand for action against the mob. We have no plan of action now."

Official estimates say at least 1,000 persons were in the mob which stormed the jail and seized the prisoners, two colored women. They were rescued by the action of 25 state troopers who fought their way through the mob, took the women from an automobile, and brought them to safety.

TRAPPED



ARTHUR COLLICK, who had been sought for five days in connection with the murder of Harvey Pilchard and the wounding of his wife, Annie, near Snow Hill, Md., is shown after his capture at Girdletree. Collick was rushed to Belair by State police to foil possible mob violence.

MARYLAND'S FAMED LYNCH MOB NOW POSSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22—(ANP)—The now famous "Maryland lynch mob" has resolved itself into a posse, according to latest reports and is hunting the alleged

Gems Found In Home Of Doomed Maryland Killer

SEP 12 1940
Pittsburgh Courier
SEP 14
Pittsburgh, Pa.

SNOW HILL, Md., Sept. 12 — Following a tip that "hidden gold" might be found in the former home of Arthur Collick, 28, doomed to hang in the Maryland Penitentiary at Baltimore on Friday, the sheriff has reported that he found approximately $250 worth of assorted jewelry.

Collick will die for the murder of a white farmer at his Stockton (Md.) farm house last February. His companion, Charles Manuel, 17, is now serving a life sentence for the crime. The State charged that the farmer was killed by a shotgun blast and his wife shot in the back and criminally assaulted.

Collick was trailed to a swamp by his pet dog and captured by a posse after he had eluded pursuit during a blizzard.

SEP 14 1940

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

MARYLAND

6493

Governor Pledges Protection For Two Mob Victims

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—(SNS)—"You may be sure that in conjunction with law-enforcing officials, I am determined to see that the law is respected and the orderly processes are followed."

This was the statement made by Maryland's Governor Herbert R. O'Connor in a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People yesterday and made public by the Association today in reply to a telegram urging that he use every precaution in protecting 31-year-old Mrs. Martha Blake Collick and her 14-year-old daughter, Lillian, from a Stockton, Md., lynch-mob.

Mrs. Collick, her daughter, her husband, Dave Collic, and George Selby are all held in the death of Harvey Pilchard, white, well-to-do farmer, on Sunday, February 13. Pilchard's wife is said to have identified Collick as one of the two Negro men who entered her home Sunday night, shot and killed her husband and then shot her.

TAKE TWO FROM JAIL

Unable to find Collick, who was said to be hiding in a swamp, a mob of 1,000 whites converged on Snow Hill, Maryland, and dragged Mrs. Blake and her daughter from the jail, where they had been held. The mob placed the mother and child in an automobile and took them out of town.

Followed closely by state troopers sent out by Gov. O'Conner, the mob was forced to give up their prisoners, who were uninjured, after a pitched battle with the troops. The mother and daughter screamed repeatedly throughout their ordeal with the mob, witnesses to the kidnaping said.

The Association's telegram advised the Governor that W. A. C. Hughes, Baltimore attorney had been asked to interview the victims of the lynch mob.

The telegram which praised him for his prompt action in saving the mother and daughter, also urged him to protect Collick when he is found. The complete text of the telegram which followed a phone call to the Governor Tuesday night at 1 A.M. by Roy Wilkins, assistant secretary of the NAACP, after a hurry call from the New York Daily News, follows:

"National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and its Maryland branches, composed of members of both races, congratulate you and Maryland state troopers for preventing lynching of colored woman and her fourteen-year-old daughter last night.

"We urge utmost precaution in protecting them and colored men held as suspects. We vigorously urge change of venue if and when indictments are handed down and trials held. We are asking one of our Maryland attorneys, W. A. C. Hughes, junior, of Baltimore to secure permission to interview Mrs. Martha Blake Collick and her daughter and men suspects now being held."

Commenting on the attempted lynching, Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, said:

"This is the answer to Senator Tom Connally's assertions at the recent Senate hearings on the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, that lynching is dying out. Nothing shows more concretely the necessity of a Federal Anti-Lynching law than this dastardly action by a mob of 1,000 white persons against this helpless Negro mother and her youthful daughter.

"This criminal act on the part of a lawless mob, bent on taking the law into its own hands, did not happen in the deep South this time. It happened less than fifty miles from the Capitol of the United States, where only two days before the United States Supreme Court had handed down the famous Lincoln Day decision upholding the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution, an amendment which guarantees to every citizen accused of a crime, the right to a fair trial in an unprejudiced atmosphere."

Death Sentence Given Man Who Escaped Maryland Mob

8-10-40 Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

TOWSON, Md., Aug. 8—Brought here from Maryland's notorious Eastern Shore for trial because of lynch threats, Arthur Collick, 28, was sentenced to hang for the murder of a white farmer of Worcester county, while a companion in the crime, Charles Manuel, was given a life sentence, Thursday.

The sentences were handed down by three judges in the Circuit Court. Collick and Manuel, it was charged, broke into the home of the farmer near Stockton in February, killed him and then criminally assaulted his wife.

Collick's common-law wife, Mrs. Martha Blake, 31, and her daughter, Lillian Virginia Blake, 15, were taken into custody following the slaying, and a mob of close to 1,000 men stormed the jail at Snow Hill where they were held, took them out and threatened to lynch them.

State troopers rescued the women and took them to the jail in Elkton, north of Baltimore, for safekeeping and questioning.

Manuel was arrested several days later. Collick fled into the Dunn swamp, during a blizzard, and hid there for several days while State troopers and a mob searched for the culprits. Manuel was finally captured when tracked down by his own pet dog. He and Manuel were speeded to the Snow Hill jail for safety.

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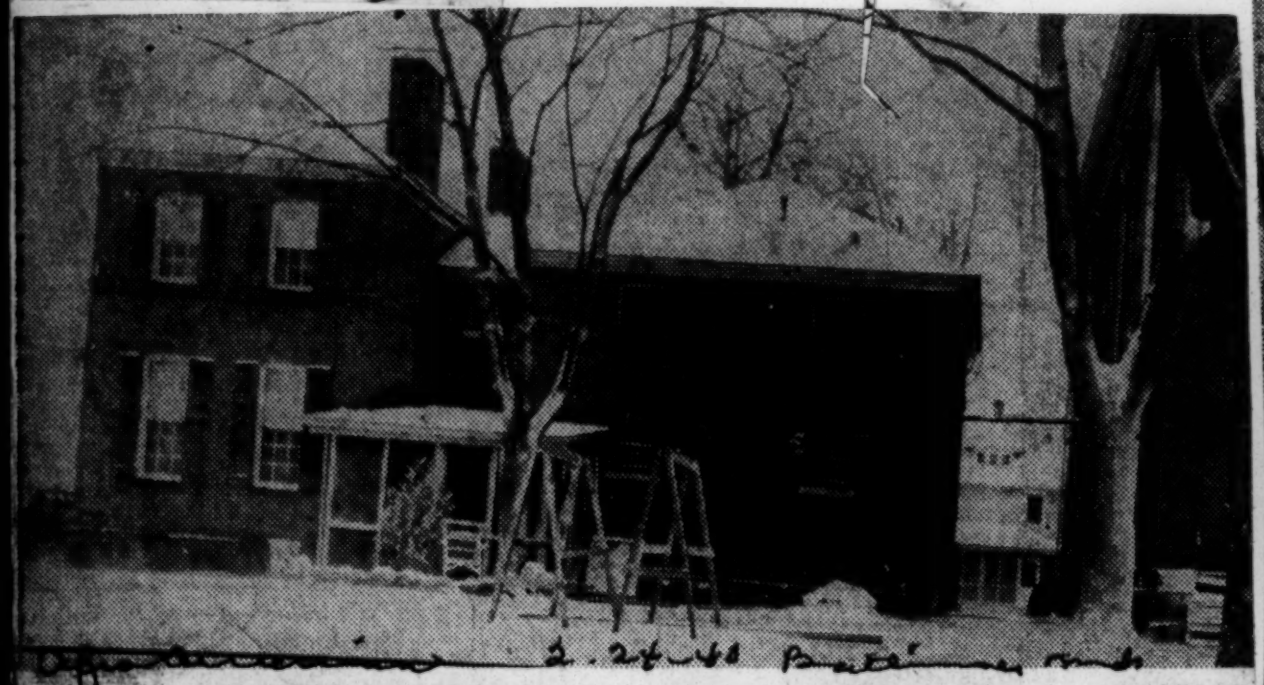
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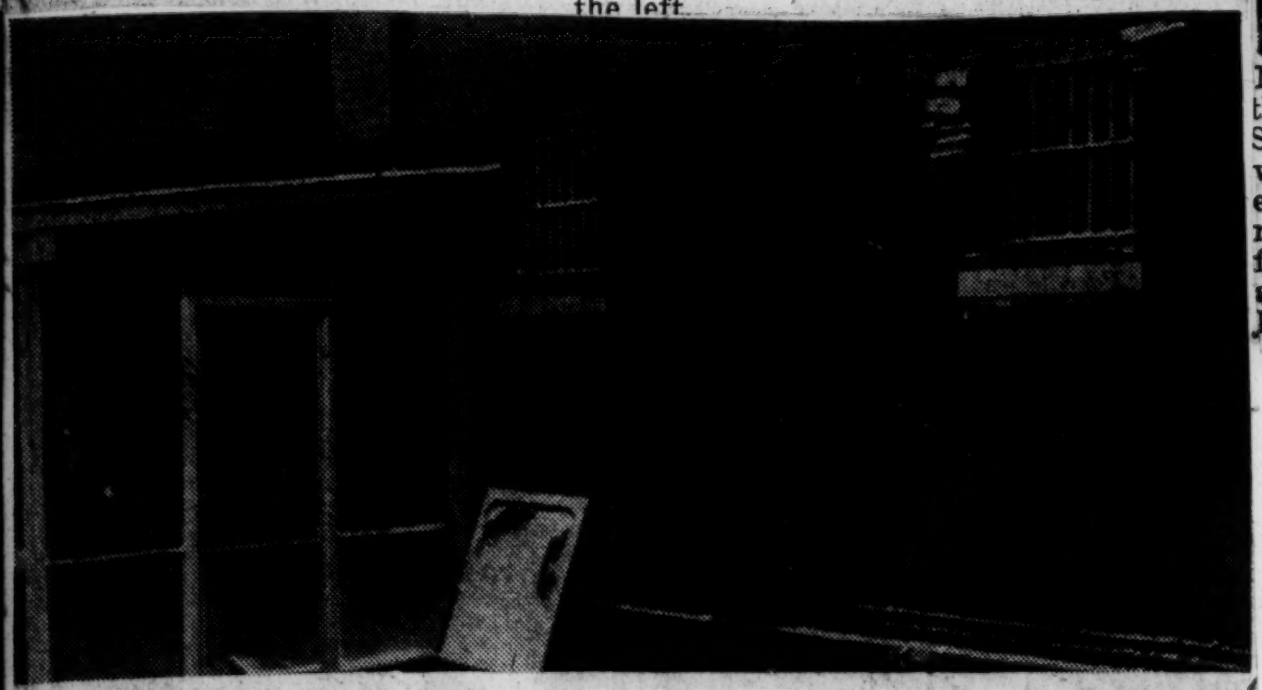
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LYNCHINGS - 1940 MARYLAND
PREVENTED

AFRO Cameraman Shows Principals and Scenes in Near-Lynching at Stockton, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland



Here is the Snow Hill jail where mob jimmied window and took prisoners. Rear of courthouse may be seen at the right. The warden lives in quarters at the left.



Close-up of jail window where bars were forced out. Screen around warden's porch (left) was ripped also Two other prisoners escaped through



Mrs. Lillian Blake Collick, 32, common-law wife of Arthur Collick, fugitive suspect in the killing of a white Stockton, Md., farmer, and her daughter, Martha, 14, who were rescued from a mob of more than a thousand enraged whites, Tuesday night, after members of the mob took them from the jail at Snow Hill, shoeless and footsore from their flight through the swamps. They are shown in protective custody of Sheriff J. William Hall of Worcester County and Chief of Police A. W. Brittingham of Pocomoke.

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Jury Ignores Mob Attack, Indicts Pair

Third Suspect Not Charged in Pilchard Slaying Case

By the Associated Press

Snow Hill, Md., Feb. 27.—A special Worcester County grand jury investigating the slaying of Harvey Pilchard, Stockton farmer, returned four indictments today against two colored men but made no mention of a mob attack on the Snow Hill jail.

The jurors had been charged from the bench to investigate the attack by the mob which took two colored women from the jail in attempt to learn the whereabouts of a suspected slayer.

Arthur Collick, 28, and Charles Manuel, 18, were charged in one indictment "with robbery with a deadly weapon and assault with intent to rob with a deadly weapon."

A third indictment charged both with assault with intent to kill Mrs. Pilchard. The fourth charged Collick alone with criminal assault. Mrs. Pilchard told officers she was attacked during the robbery and slaying at her farm home February 11.

The indictments were returned after a three and one-half hours' hearing. There was no announcement as to when the two defendants would be arrigned.

George Seelby, 42, another colored man arrested in the case, was not mentioned in the jury report.

One of the witnesses before the jury was Lillian Blake, 16, who, with her mother, Martha Blake, 31, was delivered from the jail by a crowd of several hundred men, taken to Stockton and later released, uninjured, to State police.

Mrs. Pilchard, still suffering from a bullet wound in the back, was unable to appear before the jury, but sent a signed statement to be placed in evidence. She was found crouched on a second-floor roof the morning after her husband was slain at their home.

A crowd of about 200 persons half filled the court roo mwhen the jury's report was brought in. Seven State policemen were present and there was no disorder.

Presiding were Chief Judge Benjamin A. Johnson and Associates Crockett and T. Sangston Insley. The bench made no announcement as to when Collick and Manuel would be arraigned but did announce that court would be in session Friday.

SAVE MOTHER, GIRL FROM MD. LYNCHING MOB

State Troops Cow 1,000 Would-Be Killers, Rescue Victims

SNOW HILL, Md., Feb. 23—A howling mob of nearly 1,000 men stormed the local jail here last Tuesday night and abducted a mother and her 14-year-old daughter.

The victims, Mrs. Martha Blake and her daughter, Virginia, were rescued by a posse of sheriffs and state troopers after the would-be lynchers had driven them by auto to Stockton, supposedly in search of a man accused of having shot and killed a white man and seriously injuring his wife. The mother and daughter, according to allegations, accompanied this killer at time of the shootings.

In seizing the women from the jail where they had been incarcerated pending apprehension of the killer, 12 men, working as a nucleus, chose a window on one side and went to work with hacksaws. A metal rod brought into play to pry the sawed bars to one side. Long queues of men pulling on ropes attached to the shattered pieces made short work of the protection over the window.

In a few moments the ringleaders were shoving their way through the window into the interior of the jail, tenanted only by the jailer and his wife, and containing only the cowering women as prisoners.

Sobbing And Praying

Lillian Blake was sobbing in one corner of her cell. Her daughter, in the same cubicle was praying.

The women were seized and, using the noose as an unspoken argument, the mob demanded they tell what they knew of the murder, and the assault and shooting.

As more and more forced their way into the jail, the press became so great that it was decided to move the women outside. They were pulled into the open and for the first time the crowd seemed to catch an almost hysterical spirit.

Bricks and missles were thrown at the already rent jail. A face, presumably that of Bowen or his wife, appeared at a second-story window and a brickbat went sailing in that direction immediately.

Started For Stockton

Almost as one, the mob began moving for their automobiles and the race to Stockton. Evidently the leaders had discovered something from the Blake women, or at least, had acquired some information not previously known to them.

They started for the town where the murder took place and where the mother and daughter were ultimately rescued.

Man Saved from Maryland Mob will Die on Gallows

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The sentences were handed down by three judges in the Circuit Court. Collick and Manuel, it was charged broke into the home of the farmer near Stockton in Feburary, killed him and then criminally assaulted his wife.

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Collick's daughter, the first witness to take the stand, testified against him.

National Guardsmen Sent To Balk Mississippi Lynching

MEADVILLE, MISS., Jan. 4.—(AP)—A company of national guardsmen poured into the nearby community of Knoxville tonight to prevent the lynching of a negro slayer-suspect sought through the dense and gloomy Homochitto National Forest by a posse of 100 enraged Mississippians.

The negro, known only as "Red" and a stranger in the neighborhood, is wanted for the slaying of one white man and the wounding of two others Monday night.

Two possemen surprised the fugitive late this afternoon fleeing along railroad tracks that parallel the forest, fired upon him with shotguns and then saw him stumble and flee into the safety of the towering pine woods.

Deputy Sheriff Grahame Herring, of Meadville, asked if he thought the troops could save the negro from a lynch-mob if he is caught, replied "they're going to lynch him anyway."

The hunt for the negro was slightly delayed tonight as the possemen awaited the arrival of bloodhounds before beginning a relentless, night-long search among the miles of pine trees.

White Youth Killed

Herring said Hillard Hall, Franklin County youth, was shot dead Monday night when he and Constable Philip Shell and the constable's brother, J. W. Shell, sought to question two negroes suspected of many neighborhood robberies.

"The two negroes, 'Red' and another named 'Oklahoma' opened fire without warning, killing Hall," Herring said. "They wounded the constable in the hand and his brother in the arm, neither seriously."

The negroes, who had been living in a shack a mile from Knoxville, fled. Herring said tonight a search of the cabin revealed a quantity of ammunition, 50 women's dresses, a certain amount of silver money, and a number of watches.

The negro known as "Oklahoma" has not been seen since the shooting but "Red" was cornered today in a cabin not far from where Hall was slain.

Possemen, lying in wait through an all-day rain, finally discovered the fugitive fleeing down the railroad tracks when they fired upon him.

The troops were sent to the scene by Gov. White upon the telephoned request of Maj. R. G. Saxon, of the National Guard. Thirty-five troops of Company A, 155th Infantry, were sent from Meadville to Knoxville under the command of Adjt. Gen. John A. O'Keefe.

Maj. T. B. Birdsong arrived with a squad of five troopers from Jackson. The soldiers were stationed along the bridges and roads leading into Knoxville while the possemen beat through the forest.

Another Lynching Balked

While the manhunt in this neighborhood grew more intense, with farmers from 30 miles around arriving with their shotguns to join the posse, Sheriff S. G. Magee at Prentiss, Miss., disclosed two unsuccessful attempts had been made to lynch another negro murder-suspect at Columbia.

These attempts, the sheriff said, resulted from the slaying in Prentiss Monday night of J. C. Sanford, 45, a former town marshal.

Sanford with two officers sought to stop three negroes suspected of running liquor. The ex-marshal was slain in the gunfire that poured from the machine of the negroes who turned their car around and fled toward Columbia, according to the sheriff.

The trio was pursued, the sheriff said, and in Columbia Jerome Franklin, negro, was caught and jailed on a murder charge. The sheriff said twice in two days a mob tried to storm the jail to lynch the prisoner.

"I have removed him now to a safe jail," the sheriff said and disclosed that the other two negro suspects had been trailed to New Orleans where they abandoned their car.

Mississippi Troops Called To Protect Three Negro Men

JACKSON, Miss.—(AP)—The sheriff of Franklin County (Meadville) this afternoon telephoned Gov. Hugh White a request to send militia to the county to prevent the threatened lynching of three Negroes.

The sheriff said the Negroes were trapped in a house at Meadville which was surrounded by a mob. The governor ordered Maj. T. B. Birdsong, of the guard, to dispatch a detachment with tear gas.

NEGROES GO ON TRIAL AND GUARDS STAND BY

Prentiss Pair Threatened Earlier by Lynch Mob

PRENTISS, Miss., Jan. 12.—(AP)—Two negroes already once threatened by "lynch law" were brought to trial here on murder charges today under the protection of drawn bayonets of National Guardsmen while carpenters just outside the courthouse built a scaffold for execution of a convicted negro slayer.

Late today attorneys were still trying to agree on a trial jury after court-appointed defense attorneys had challenged seven of the panel chosen by the district attorney and these had been replaced from the venire.

The defendants, Jerome Franklin and Hilton Fortenberry, sat stolidly as the pounding of hammers and the ring of saws penetrated the courtroom while steel trap, noose bolt and test rope were put in place on the scaffold.

An earlier attempt to seize today's defendants impelled retiring Governor White to send a military unit here for their arraignment earlier, and for the trial. The negroes are charged with slaying J. C. Sanford, former Prentiss marshal when he and others tried to stop their car New Year's Day.

Strict precautions were taken to obtain an impartial jury and guarantee a fair trial for the men guarded by two Jackson troops of Guardsmen totaling 75 under command of Maj. T. B. Birdsong, who authorized 200 white and 50 negro spectators inside the court.

Search Ror 'Texas Red' Is Intensified

NATCHEZ, Miss., Jan. 12.—The search for "Texas Red," negro fugitive sought since the first of January, was intensified late today when it was reported that he had been sighted about three miles south of Natchez and had been fired upon five times by a National Guardsman.

"Red" and another negro known as "Oklahoma," who is believed to have escaped into Louisiana, are sought for the slaying of Hillard Hall, Franklin County constable, killed near Knoxville the night of Jan. 1.

Two Negroes Put On Trial Under Guard

Troops Still On Duty In Mississippi Slaying Case

By THOMAS SANCTON

PRENTISS, MISS., Jan. 12.—(AP)—Two negroes already once threatened by "lynch law" were brought to trial here on murder charges today under the protection of drawn bayonets of National Guardsmen while carpenters just outside the courthouse built a scaffold for execution of a convicted negro slayer.

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Noticeably strict precautions were taken to obtain an impartial jury and guarantee a fair trial for the men guarded by two Jackson, Miss., troops of guardsmen totalling 75 under command of Major T. B. Birdsong, who authorized 200 white and 50 negro spectators inside the court.

There were about 250 persons gathered outside, but all seemed in good humor with none of the sullenness characteristic of mob violence.

"The fact these two fellows are darkies won't influence you," District Attorney Dere Dale asked each prospective juror in turn. "You cannot serve on the jury unless you know you can and will give these darkies a fair trial under the law and evidence."

Sheriff S. G. MaGee, of Jefferson Davis County, of which Prentiss is the county seat, said the scaffold would be used for the convicted negro slayer of a negro next week.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
January 6, 1940

ON DANGEROUS GROUND

The other day a negro shot and killed a deputy constable and wounded two officers with him, in Franklin County, when he and another were accosted respecting some robberies. A suspect was trapped in a shack, and as other officers approached to arrest him, escaped and fled to a swamp. The report at this writing is that as many as 100 farmers and others form a posse in pursuit. The sheriff asked the Governor for militia to prevent a lynching by the pursuers, he believing that without the militia he certainly would be lynched if caught.

The two negroes were strangers in the community; robberies had been committed, and the officers they shot were trying to question them at the time. Their shack afterwards was searched and jewelry and other property found, increasing the suspicion that they had committed the burglaries.

We understand that the suspect fled and was in the Homochitto National Forest. If the posse catch and lynch him there it will be on Federal property and prosecution of the lynchers might be in the Federal Court of this District, a prospect and duty, which, we suppose, the Federal Judge of this District would not relish. The number of lynchings in the South last year was reduced to three, which indicates an increasingly favorable situation in this troublesome matter.

Another negro was saved by the Marion County sheriff from two mobs yesterday.

Next week another Gavagan anti-lynching bill may be expected in Congress, with all the old debate and bitterness. Gavagan may be making himself solid with the negro voters of his district (he is a Democrat), but he is stirring up much feeling and trouble and his proposed law is unjust and will not work a remedy—if that be his object. However, it would be unfortunate, and embarrassing to Southerners who will contest the Gavagan bill if a lynching in Mississippi occur right on the eve of its introduction.

The foregoing are not the only reasons for preventing the lynching, of course, but they are important.

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MISS. MOB FOILED IN EFFORT TO LYNCH TWO

JACKSON, Miss., Jan. 18—While Representative John E. Rankin, Mississippi, sputtered and blasphemed in the House of Representatives last week in a futile attempt to prevent passage of the Gavagan anti-lynching bill, his constituents at Prentiss, a short distance from here, were busy in a frantic pursuit of two colored men with the object of lynching them.

News of what was taking place in Mississippi is reported to have reached Washington to the dismay of Congressman Rankin and his colleagues from Dixie.

It is further reported that at the behest of these Dixie Representatives, nearly 100 whites were employed in the district surrounding Prentiss, at so much per day to circulate among the would-be lynchers and call them off from the hunt.

Gov. Hugh A. White is reported to have received word from Washington that "you can't let that happen now."

In consequence, Gov. White called out three companies of the national guard to supplement the police force at Prentiss and to protect Jerome Franklin and Hilton Fortenberry during their arraignment for the alleged murder of former Town Marshal J. C. Sanford.

After their arrest, both suspects were removed to this city for safekeeping. Troops on duty during the proceedings were ordered to Prentiss by Gov. White on the recommendation of Sheriff S. G. Magee, who reported that local feeling against the men was becoming more inflamed and that, in his opinion, the presence of an adequate force of guardsmen throughout the arraignment was necessary to forestall any attempt to lynch the men.

However, Mississippi state political leaders proved that if there were to be any lynching, they were determined to make it legal. They therefore speeded up their own processes.

Fortenberry was captured in Houston, Texas, January 4, and returned to Mississippi January 6. He was tried last Saturday and sentenced to be hanged January 23.

STOP DOUBLE LYNCH THREAT IN NATCHEZ

NATCHEZ, Miss., Jan. 25—(CNA)—Mississippi had National Guardsmen on duty in several sections this week to thwart a threatened double lynching as Congress debated the Gavagan anti-lynching bill.

Fearful of the effect on Congress if a lynching was permitted to take place while the battle over the bill is still raging, authorities hastily mobilized the Natchez National Guard company when reports came in that a posse had rounded a hunted man, known as Texas Red, on a plantation nine miles south of here

The hunt by fifty armed white men was intensified after one of the hunters reported he had exchanged shots with the suspect.

Texas Red and a companion have been sought more than a week on suspicion that they killed Hillard Hall, white deputized constable, and wounded two others in a fight.

NEGRO AT MERIDIAN IS HELD IN ROBBERY

Officer Outtalks Posse Which Tries To Seize Man

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MERIDIAN, Miss., July 24.—Willie Ed Reid, 28, negro, was lodged in the Lauderdale County Jail here Wednesday after Detective Segt. D. T. Rogers outtalked a posse of some 50 men apparently bent on lynching him.

Reid was arrested at the end of a two-hour chase which followed what police said was the snatching of Mrs. Paul Aldridge's purse at a skating rink.

Mrs. Aldridge was slightly injured in wrestling with the negro for possession of the purse. Mr. Aldridge attempted to strike the negro with an ax as he fled from the scene.

Later the negro was found hiding under a house on Fifth Street.

About $25 of the $70 in Mrs. Aldridge's purse was recovered.

The negro is held on a charge of dangerous and suspicious. Police said he admitted another purse snatching several nights ago.

NIGHT CLUB BURNED DOWN BY ANGRY MOB; IT WAS WHITE PLACE

Courier's Prophecy of Mob Reaction Knowing No Color Line, Once Again Vindicated.

PHILADELPHIA, Miss., Aug. 8—Grady White, proprietor of the Blue Goose night club near here, was removed for safekeeping to a jail in a distant unnamed section of the state, when a mob Tuesday night, after burning down the night club following the death of Sam McCune fatally shot there on the previous evening, marched on the local jail with the reported avowed purpose of removing White from his cell and dealing with him summarily in their own way.

White was one of six persons arrested, three women and three men, and held for questioning in connection with the homicide. The other five were transferred by Sheriff William Brantley to the city and county jails at Meridian.

McCune, 25, who was widely known and popular, was manager of the Mississippi Vending Company. Shot in the head at the now non-existent club Monday night, he died the following day.

All of those concerned in the slaying and the subsequent arrests and disorders, are white.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

MISSISSIPPI

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The negro, known only as "Red" and a stranger in the neighborhood, is wanted for the slaying of a white man and the wounding of two others Monday night.

Two possemen surprised the fugitive late this afternoon fleeing along railroad tracks that parallel the forest, fired upon him with shotguns and then saw him stumble and flee into the safety of the towering pine woods.

Deputy Sheriff Grahame Herring of Meadville, asked if he thought the troops could save the negro from a lynch-mob if he is caught, replied "they're going to lynch him anyway."

The hunt for the negro was slightly delayed tonight as the possemen awaited the arrival of bloodhounds before beginning a relentless, night-long search among the miles of pine trees.

White Youth Killed

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"The two negroes, 'Red' and another named 'Oklahoma' opened fire without warning, killing Hall," Herring said. "They wounded the constable in the hand and his brother in the arm neither seriously."

The negroes, who had been living in a shack a mile from Knoxville, fled Herring said tonight a search of the cabin revealed a quantity of ammunition, 5 women's dresses, a certain amount of silver money and a number of watches.

The negro known as "Oklahoma" has not been seen since the shooting but "Red" was cornered today in a cabin not far from where Hall was slain.

Possemen, lying in wait through an all-day rain, finally discovered the fugitive fleeing down the railroad tracks when they fired upon him.

The troops were sent to the scene by Gov. White upon the telephoned request of Maj. R. G. Saxon, of the National Guard. Thirty-five troops of Company A, 155th Infantry, were sent from Meadville to Knoxville under the command of Adjt. Gen. John A. O'Keefe.

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These attempts, the sheriff said, resulted from the slaying in Prentiss Monday night of J. C. Sanford, 45, a former town marshal.

Sanford with two officers sought to stop three negroes suspected of running liquor. The ex-marshal was slain in the gunfire that poured from the machine of the negroes who turned their car around and fled toward Columbia, according to the sheriff.

The trio was pursued, the sheriff said, and in Columbia Jerome Franklin, negro, was caught and jailed on a murder charge. The sheriff said twice in two days a mob tried to storm the jail to lynch the prisoner.

"I have removed him now to a safe jail," the sheriff said and disclosed that the other two negro suspects had been trailed to New Orleans where they abandoned their car.

MISSISSIPPI TROOPERS HALT LYNCHING-THREAT

Negroes' Arraignment Delayed At Prentiss

1-10-40

VENUE CHANGE DENIED

White Deplores Coincidence Of Earlier Trouble and Appearance Of AntiLynching Bill In Congress

By The Associated Press

PRENTISS, Miss., Jan. 9.—National Guard troops, more than a hundred strong, today apparently had averted danger of an application of "lynch law" by townsmen here to two negroes returned for arraignment in the slaying of a former marshal.

The guardsmen patrolled here during arguments by a court-appointed attorney for change of venue for one of the defendants which resulted in Circuit Judge J. C. Shivers denying the motion and setting Friday for opening of the trial.

White Deplores Action

Meanwhile at Jackson, Governor White, who ordered the troopers to Prentiss to protect the negroes, deplored the coincidence of the Prentiss trouble and a similar incident at Knoxville, Miss., last week with the reappearance in Congress of action in support of the AntiLynching Bill. This bill is bitterly opposed by officials of most Southern states as an infringement of Constitutional rights.

Governor White ordered in three companies of nearby National Guardsmen armed with riot guns and tear gas supplies, after Sheriff S. G. Magee last night reported to him that "feeling against the negroes was mounting" in the tense Jeff Davis County seat. Governor White today indicated his pleasure at the promptness with which Sheriff Magee had acted to prevent violent action which supporters of the AntiLynch Bill might have seized upon.

Held At Jackson

Maj. T. B. Birdsong of the Guard was in charge of the troopers who brought the two negroes here from Jackson. They had been held for a week there for safekeeping after two attempts by mobs to seize one of the men at nearby Columbia were thwarted New Year's Day.

Former Marshal J. C. Sanford was killed last Monday when, with two other white men, he blocked a highway in an effort to halt the machine of four negroes suspected of running liquor through the town. One negro, Jerome Franklin, was captured at once, and the other, Hilton Fortenberry, was caught in Houston, Texas, and returned.

Meanwhile, peace officers from Natchez again picked up the trail of two other negroes, wanted for the slaying of a white man at Knoxville, and who have been sought unsuccessfully by National Guardsmen for nearly a week. The Guardsmen were called in after another mob threat.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 10, 1940

Mississippi Has Troops On Guard As Mobs Are Feared

NATCHEZ, Miss.—(AP)—Mississippi had national guardsmen on duty in several sections today to thwart possible mob violence against Negroes as Congress debated a proposed federal lynching bill.

Three companies of guardsmen were ordered to Prentiss yesterday by Gov. Hugh White when two Negroes were arraigned on charges of killing a former marshal. Their trial was set for Friday. There was no disturbance.

Guardsmen have been on duty in the Meadville area, more than 100 miles west of Prentiss, since last week. Farmer posses are seeking two other Negroes in that section for the killing of another white man.

The Natchez national guard company was mobilized hastily last night when possemen reported they had surrounded one of the suspects, known as "Texas Red," on a plantation nine miles south of here.

The hunt was intensified after one searcher reported he had exchanged shots with the suspect on the Jim O'Kelley plantation.

"Texas Red's" companion, known as "Oklahoma Kid," was believed to have escaped across the Mississippi River to Concordia Parish Louisiana.

They are wanted for the killing of Hillard Hall, 21, deputized constable, and the wounding of two others, when the officers sought to question the Negroes in connection with robberies in the Meadville and Knoxville vicinities.

Mississippi Calls Out National Guards To Prevent Mob Violence

By JAMES C. DICKERSON

PRENTISS, Miss., Jan. 19—This little city was overflowing with two companies of Mississippi National Guardsmen, Tuesday. They were here to protect two Race men who were to be arraigned on murder charges.

Gov. Hugh White ordered the troops after Sheriff S. G. Magee said he feared mob violence was imminent.

Sheriff Magee, in requesting the troops, said that he believed mob violence had diminished, but had not disappeared, and that the soldires' presence would eliminate any danger of interference with arraignment proceedings.

Jerome Franklin and Hilton Fortenberry were the two men to be arraigned on murder charges in connection with the fatal shooting a fortnight ago of J. C. Sanford, former marshall.

They were allegedly in a liquor loaded auto which Sanford and other county officers tried to halt last January 1.

The jury was completed Friday after 57 veniremen were examined Strict precautions were taken to obtain an impartial jury looking forward to a fair trial as the men were being guarded by Guardsmen from Jackson under command of Maj. T. B. Birdsong, who authorized 200 white and 50 Race spectators to enter the courtroom. Further hearings were to be continued Saturday morning after adjourning Friday

DEPUTY ROUTS MOB DEMANDING SUSPECT

Iron Stove Poker Disperses Crowd At Carathersville

(Special to The Commercial Appeal)

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 11.—Wielding an iron stove poker, Deputy Sheriff W. A. (Bill) Thomas Tuesday night about 10 o'clock routed a lynch mob of some 100 men who stormed the county jail after having besieged the city jail for more than two hours in an attempt to search for an unidentified negro, wanted for alleged criminal attack and stabbing of Mrs. Minnie Moody, 65, early Tuesday.

DEC 12 1940

The attack occurred when Mrs. Moody, who lives at New Madrid and is here visiting her son, Arthur Moody, was in an outhouse at her son's home at the edge of town. Mrs. Moody told authorities that when she fought off the negro he stabbed her in the abdomen and fled. Physicians said her condition is serious.

The mob gathered about 8 o'clock Tuesday night at the city jail when rumor spread that the negro had been arrested. Finally convinced that the negro was not in that jail, the mob marched to the county jail.

Deputy Thomas met the mob at the jail door and told them to go home. But under urgings of three leaders, the crowd refused to leave. As the mob continued milling around the door, demanding the negro, Deputy Thomas obtained the stove poker and charged those crowded against the door. At least three of the front ranks leaders were struck and fled, with the rest of the crowd dispersing.

What action will be taken against identified ringleaders could not be learned Wednesday, as Prosecuting Atty. R. W. Hawkins was out of town. Sheriff John Hosler said official action was first required to come from the prosecutor's office.

Whereabouts of the negro attack suspect could not be learned Wednesday. Sheriff Hosler said he was not in the county jail, and Chief of Police Albert Walker declined to comment.

USES STOVE POKER TO ROUT MISSOURI MOB

DEC 11 1940

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 11 (Special)—Deputy Sheriff W. L. Thomas, armed only with a stove poker, put to rout Tuesday night a mob of upward of 100 white men who demanded the surrender to them of an unnamed race man charged with stabbing and attacking a 65-year-old white woman, threatened to storm the county jail here.

6496

LYNCHINGS - 1940
PREVENTED

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
February 18, 1940

Judge R. Hunt Parker,
Sampson County Superior Court;
Sheriff C. C. Tart,
Clinton, N. C.
Gentlemen:

If all sheriffs and judges acted as promptly and as wisely as you did last Thursday in the case of the Troublefield negro, there would be little danger of lynchings. You deserve commendation for acting so promptly to get the negro away to a safe destination, after he had been sentenced for confessed attempt to assault two white women, instead of waiting until an actual attempt to seize the prisoner had been made.

Although, as I understand it, no lynching had been actually planned, the milling crowd around the courthouse and the presence of a "strong undercurrent of feeling" might have resulted in something serious had you not taken the prompt action you did. You acted wisely in taking no chances, and for that I congratulate you.

GENERAL MECKLENBURG.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
February 16, 1940

Convicted Negro Rushed Away From Large Mob

Clinton, Feb. 16.—(AP)—Andrew Finn Troublefield, 24-year old Negro convicted of attempted criminal assault on two white women, was rushed to State Prison in Raleigh for safe-keeping yesterday after a large crowd began milling about the courthouse here.

Sheriff C. C. Tart summoned state highway patrolmen here to aid in taking the Negro away. Troublefield was sentenced by Judge R. Hunt Parker to serve from 10 to 15 years. After the Negro was en route to Raleigh, the crowd about the courthouse dispersed.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 16, 1940

CROWD GRUMBLES AT NEGRO'S TRIAL

Mob's Gathering in Clinton Forces Request for Aid in Removing Prisoner

Clinton, Feb. 15.—A muttering mob of several hundred men which milled around the courthouse doors today forced Sampson County authorities to call for additional help to aid in removing Andrew Finn Troublefield, the Negro, from the courthouse following a trial for attempted rape on two Piney Grove Township white women last Summer.

At no time did the men become unruly, but a strong undercurrent of feeling which swept through the crowd after Judge R. Hunt Parker had given the Negro two sentences of from 10 to 15 years in prison led Sheriff C. C. Tart to call for help. Judge Parker advised the calling of additional State highway patrolmen in order to forestall violence.

When the patrolmen arrived, the Negro was hustled from the office of the clerk of court into the sheriff's waiting automobile, and with a patrol escort, the sheriff started to Raleigh.

Mob Disperses Quickly.

After the party had left town, the mob broke up into small groups and mostly discussed "what ought to have been done." Soon it had dispersed entirely.

Troublefield confessed attempts to criminally assault the women at their homes and in court entered pleas of guilty as charged in the indictments.

Judge Parker ordered a transcript of the evidence so that it might be transferred to Paroles Commissioner Edwin Gill for use should the prisoner apply for parole.

Women Take Stand.

Both prosecuting witnesses took the stand. Miss Lena Mae Bradshaw, 17, told of the Negro's going to her home on a Saturday afternoon in August while she was alone taking a bath, and of his subsequent breaking into the house and wrestling with her. The attack was thwarted when a young brother of the girl, Deroy Bradshaw, arrived and put the Negro to flight, according to evidence.

Mrs. Facey Smith testified that Troublefield went to her home, about a half-mil from the Bradshaws and dragged her from the kitchen to a bedroom and attempted to assault her. In that instance, the Negro was put to flight by the arrival of a neighbor, it was testified.

Each woman was alone at home at the time of the attempted attacks, which took place in mid-afternoon.

Troublefield escaped and shortly was the object of one of the most dramatic manhunts in the history of Sampson County. For three days and nights he was hunted by a posse which at times totaled 1,000 men. He was not arrested until about a week afterwards, and was taken from Mount Olive, where arrested, to Central Prison, Raleigh, for safekeeping. He was not returned to Clinton until last Wednesday morning, when he was given preliminary hearing.

The Negro obviously was scared when told a mob was after him. He kept pleading for "more law" to come to the courthouse.

CENTRAL PRISON GETS NEGRO FROM SAMPSON

Sampson County officers and a Highway Patrolman committed Andrew Finn Troublefield to Central Prison safely yesterday after dodging a Clinton crowd incensed by his attempted rape of white women. Another of the seven prisoners committed yesterday was convicted of the same offense.

Troublefield, a Negro, was committed to serve two consecutive sentences of 10 to 15 years for assaulting two Sampson white women with intent to commit rape. He had been brought to death row for safekeeping prior to his trial.

J. Henry Highsmith, Jr., in charge of Central Prison commitments, said Troublefield followed the normal routine of new prisoners and would be transferred to some road camp as soon as a physical examination determined his physical fitness for work.

Junior Lee Martin, Forsyth Negro, was committed yesterday to serve three to five years for assault with intent to commit rape. Other new prisoners were Johnny Fuller and Isaac Smith, Forsyth Negroes, sentenced to serve 5 to 7 years each for larceny and three Rowan white men—Frank Layman Dowles, 3-5 years for breaking, entering, larceny and receiving; Dave Eugene Horton and William Eugene Edward Martin, five years each for highway robbery.

Greensboro, N. C. Patriot
February 19, 1940

SAMPSON MOB UNDER CONTROL

Patrolmen Aid Sheriff In Getting Rapist Safely To State Prison.

A muttering mob of several hundred men, who milled around the Sampson county courthouse doors on Thursday, forced Sampson authorities to call for additional help to aid in removing Andrew Finn Troublefield, 24, negro, from the courthouse following a trial for attempted rape of two Piney Grove township white women last fall.

At no time did the men become unruly, but a strong undercurrent of feeling, which swept through the crowd after Judge R. Hunt Parker had given the negro two sentences of from 10 to 15 years in prison, led Sheriff C. C. Tart to call for help. Judge Parker advised the calling of additional state highway patrolmen in order to forestall violence.

When the patrolmen arrived the negro was hustled from the office of the clerk of court into the sheriff's waiting automobile, and with a patrol escort the sheriff obviously started to Raleigh.

Marshville, N. C. Home
February 28, 1940

Mob Gathers As Negro Is Tried

Sampson County Man Taken To Prison Where He Has Protection Of Law

HUNDREDS IN CROWD

(Sampson Independent)

A muttering mob of several hundred men which milled around the doors of the Sampson county courthouse last Thursday afternoon following the trial of Andrew Finn Troublefield, 24-year-old Negro, forced authorities to call for additional help to aid in removing the Negro from the courthouse. The Negro was sentenced to serve from 10 to -15 years in prison in two cases of attempted rape on two Piney Grove township white women last summer.

The mob at no time became unruly or disorderly, but at times loudly expressed its displeasure at the seeming lightness of the sentences which Superior Court Judge R. Hunt Parker gave the Negro.

Troublefield entered pleas of guilty to assault with attempt to commit rape in the cases. The prosecuting witnesses being Mrs. Facey Smith and Miss Lena Mae Bradshaw. The law provides sentence for that crime of from two to 15 years; and under present law, Troublefield will have to serve at least 20 years, and if his record does not show good behavior, his time might be 30 years.

To forestall a parole, Judge Parker, upon motion of Solicitor J. Abner Barker, ordered a transcript of the evidence of the prosecuting witnesses and Mrs. Luby Boyette transmitted to the parole commissioner in order to show the aggravated condition under which the crime was committed.

The arrival of the extra patrolmen was the signal for the mob to gather at the south door of the courthouse where Sheriff C. C. Tart had parked his automobile; and when Troublefield was brought out the door the crowd surged a little closer but no signal for action was given, so the mob took it out in looking. The sheriff and his prisoner was escorted out of town by a pair of patrol cars.

The Negro's pleas of guilty did away with the necessity of a long trial, only the principle witnesses were heard. Miss Bradshaw told of the Negro going to her home in mid-afternoon while she was alone at home and of his breaking in the door of her room and the subsequent attempt. The Negro was frightened away by the arrival of the girl's younger brother. About a half-mile away the Negro found his second victim, Mrs. Smith. She was also alone and related that the Negro dragged her from the kitchen to a bedroom where he attempted to assault her. The third witness was Mrs. Boyette, a neighbor of the Smith's whose arrival frightened him away again.

In a confession made after he had been captured, Troublefield said he was drunk.

The crimes were the starting of a most dramatic manhunt. For three days and nights large crowds, at one time it reached 1,000 men, scoured the woods in the vicinity for the Negro, who was known to have been in the section. However, he escaped during a thunder shower one night and got out of the woods and to Moutn Olive, where he was arrested a week after that Saturday afternoon. The Negro was placed on Death Row in State's Prison for safekeeping and was not brought to Clinton until a week before his trial in Superior court. It was during the hunt that he shot at Deputy Sheriff P. B. Lockerman and added a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill to the other charges. That charge was nol prossed.

Troublefield was admitted to Central Prison and given the routine entrance, with examination to determine fitness for work before being assigned to a road camp.

Troublefield was hid from the crowd in the office of the clerk of court, and it was from that office that Sheriff Tart had Patrolman O. J. Mitchell call for extra patrolmen form Warsaw. Patrol Corporal L. W. Tappan, here as a witness in court last week from Nashville, called patrolmen from Smithfield. The calls were made on the recommendation of Judge Parker.

The Negro talked freely about the crime. He appeared to be badly scared when told that a mob was outside waiting for him, and ventured the opinion that he would not walk out of the room even if he was given his freedom.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
PREVENTED

PENNSYLVANIA

6497

Coed Slaying Suspect Kept Safe From Mob

Police Cordon Guards Quizzing of Salesman At Pa. Prison Farm

By James Shepley
United Press Staff Writer

State College, Pa., March 29.—A 25-year-old oil burner salesman was being questioned by State police tonight about the murder and mutilation of Rachael Taylor, Pennsylvania State College freshman.

Troopers arrived early tonight at the Pleasant Gap headquarters with the suspect, who was arrested early today in Philadelphia. They took him inside the substation 9 miles from here and locked the doors and drew the blinds.

Mob Wrath Feared

The man, who has lived in State College for several years, limped when he left the car, and his right arm was bandaged. Authorities said that he was taken to Pleasant Gap for questioning, rather than brought here, because of the mass indignation over the savage killing of the 17-year-old coed from Wildwood, N. J.

Later tonight the prisoner was taken to another State police substation in a section of Rockview prison farm. His inquisitors were seeking to escape the crowd that flocked to windows and doors of the Pleasant Gap station.

Newspapermen who followed to Rockview were kept at a distance from that station by a cordon of 30 State police.

A "tip" furnished by James Lowrey, Negro porter in a Philadelphia hotel saloon, resulted in the suspect's arrest. When Lowrey noticed the man had what appeared to be bloodstains on his clothing and he noticed the man's name and a State College address in a notebook, the porter decided to notify officers.

Awakened by Police

The man had asked Lowrey directions to the Penn Athletic Club and the location of an eating place. He had asked Lowrey to awaken him this morning, but police took him in custody instead.

Friends of the suspect described him as quiet and unobtrusive, dark and handsome. His landlady said he left here for Philadelphia about 6 p. m. yesterday for some furnace equipment. He makes such trips occasionally, she said. She said he still was at her home when she retired at 11 p. m. Wednesday.

LYNCHINGS-1940
PREVENTED

1

SOUTH CAROLINA

6498

Mob Beats Negroes After Police Flee With Suspect

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT

GEORGETOWN, S. C.—This correspondent, along with hundreds of others, took to cover hastily Monday night as a mob, estimated at 200 white men paraded through Negro sections and all over town chasing all Negroes out of the streets. At least 18 Negroes are known to have been beaten Monday night as Georgetown experienced its first outburst of racial intolerance in forty years.

Daily World

The mob spirit flared early Sunday morning after a young white woman reported being assaulted in a weeded lot late Saturday night by a colored man. It was the second "rape" report made in Georgetown in 20 days and in each instance the culprit was reported as a Negro. Near mid day Sunday an angry mob of about 500 white people, armed with divers weapons stormed the Georgetown jail a house converted into a jail, and forced Sherfif Bruorton at gun point to turn over 11 Negro men who had been taken into custody as suspects. These men were released, however, when the woman failed to identify any of them as her assailant. Late Sunday afternoon police arrested George Thomas who was identified by the woman as her assailant. He was sped to Columbia for safe keeping.

Governor Orders Out Nat'l Guard

DEC 19 1940

Atlanta, Ga.

ELUDE LYNCHERS

Patrolmen who transferred Thomas to the penitentiary in Columbia, reported that they were pursued far out of town by several armed cars of men who sought to wrest away their prisoner. Sensing the situation the officers stepped on the gas and when at a safe distance, turned into a side road. Their pursuers sped by and were consequently lost.

When the paraders chased Negroes off the streets Monday night they sprung a surprise on older and native residents of the town. Resentment was bitter in Negro homes and Tuesday morning Negroes placed a heavy run on local ammunition stores, purchasing guns, pistols, bullets and shells. With evident rioting in the offering authoritles forbade the sale of any kind of weapons and ammunition stores were locked up. Negro residents are as much surprised at the occurrence, from the crime to the mob, as any other people. They told this correspondent that "it is a never heard of thing" in Georgetown. Doubt was expressed that the criminal is a native son and some intimate it may be a degenerate sex maniac who blackens himself to resemble a Negro. Others say that it is probable that the man who committed the assault reported Thanksgiving morning is the same person who committed the Saturday night attack. Thomas denied the charges made against him at his arrest.

GUARDS CALLED OUT

Upon request of Mayor H. L. Smith, Governor Burnet R. Maybank ordered National Guardsmen on duty in Georgetown Sunday after mobsters stormed the jail. The guardsmen were disbanded Monday, but were placed back on patrol Tuesday after the Monday night occurrence. An anticipated reoccurrence of the Monday night beatings stalled Tuesday night when citizens called off a second mass meeting. And Wednesday morning, when this correspondent left Georgetown racial tension was still strong but, was subsiding. National guards, supported by local and state officers patrolled the town. And no further violence was expected.

It is expected that Thomas will be given a speedy trial in an effort to restore the town to its normal run. But Negro citizens expressed concern in such a move, pointing to a possible "railroad" of the case and probable injustice to the accused man. Georgetown claims about 7,000 as its population, half of whom are colored.

White Women Petition Race Leaders

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

DEC 19 1940

GEORGETOWN, S. C.—Following an outbreak of violence and beating of several Negroes in Georgetown over the week-end after an alleged assault upon a young white woman by a colored man, distinguished and respectful white women of the town of 7,000 deplored the happenings and asked for fair justice in a petition handed to respectful and prominent Nelro citizens of the town late Tuesday afternoon. The more important portion of the petition read as follows:

"In view of the recent lawlessness in Georgetown with mob violence, many of the women of our city deplore and gravely disapprove of the breakdown of law and order and condemn it.

"We have lived harmoniously for generations, with the respectable colored families in our town and county and it is our desire that these relations continue and we wish also to go on record as urging that just punishment be legally meted out to anyone committing a crime."

Mocking At Justice

DEC 27 1940

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga

IT IS not our purpose to defend, in any manner, a criminal. We believe all violators of our laws should be punished as is provided for in the law. And we emphasize this as it affects all the people of all the races.

We are gravely concerned lest justice in South Carolina be turned into mockery, lest our courts shall come to stand as a mere formality, "blitzkrieg" men and women to death as it may suit the whims and wishes of a few of the people. And such shall come to pass in initial form if those urging a "speedy" trial for the colored man accused of criminal assault upon a white woman in Georgetown, have their way. Many are asking for a special session of the Georgetown Criminal court, preferably in January, for the express purpose of handling this case. But if this court shall convene for this purpose, no matter its efforts, it shall be recorded as being "unfair to an accused man." Sentiment in the town is too strong for such a trial just now.

We are informed by a lawyer who has handled a large number of cases involving "acute" crimes in the community that it is difficult for him to present adequate legal protection for an accused man in less than sixty days. "Rape" cases, he says, require menial and intimate details, briefs, research into the case, etc., and warrant 90 days or more. He is what one calls a "brilliant lawyer" and if he would need 90 days to complete work on such a case others would need the same period.

Each of these facts is known to those who seek the "speedy" trial. They know, of course, the invitable decision for any colored man similarly accused, even though he may be innocent or, accused because of mistaken identity. His conviction comes because of well defined reasons. Just the same, they would make mockery of justice.

Lighthouse and Informer

—From The Lighthouse and Informer, Charleston, S. C.

How To Prevent Lynching

DEC 6 1940

Birmingham Age-Herald

Score one for the South. Quick mobilization of 30 militiamen and five officers in a South Carolina town a few days ago resulted in the dispersal of a mob of 300 armed men, bent on lynching a Negro.

There was a time when little or no effort would have been made to prevent the brutal mob-execution of a black man in some parts of the former Confederacy. Indeed, lynchings have not always been stoutly opposed when they occurred in the North. The point is that apparently there is a growing understanding on the part of the South's citizens that they must stiffen the resistance of their sheriffs and jailers, and back them up with the force of authority.

Some may ungraciously infer that the threat of the anti-lynching bill, still pending in Congress, is having its effect. We prefer to believe that the South, like many of us, is learning a little more about itself, and in this the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings is, doubtless playing an important part. The falling off of lynchings in recent years seems to prove this.

Few have any quarrel with the aims of the anti-lynching bill, but federal government penalizing of counties in which lynchings occur is not a way to heal the trouble. The cure must be basic, and education is clearly a remedy.—Christian Science Monitor.

How To Prevent Lynching

DEC 28 1940

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Birmingham, Ala. News
December 29, 1940

How To Prevent Lynching

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Lancaster, S. C. News
December 24, 1940

MOB VIOLENCE IS NOT JUSTICE

* * *

An early trial of a negro charged with ravishing a young white woman in Georgetown recently is being advocated. The citizens want this negro tried at once. Some of the low country citizens thought of lynching him. We are not so sure that the negro would get a fair trial in the county where the crime was committed. However, there is one thing sure. If the negro is guilty as is indicated, he should be punished relentlessly.

The only bright thought about the whole affair is the fact that there was no lynching. A mob of 300 assembled for this purpose was easily dispersed by 30 militiamen.

Mob violence and lynchings in the South has declined during the past decade. This is as it should be for there should never be wanton and arbitrary destruction of human life. Every man has the right for a fair trial. Mob violence is not a fair and impartial means of administering justice. Georgetown leaders and citizens deserve credit for preventing a lynching in this instance.

LYNCHINGS - 1940
PREVENTED

SOUTH CAROLINA

6499

35 Disperse 300

South Carolina Troops Repel Mob and Save Attack Suspect

Washington, D.C. Post

DEC 16 1940

By the Associated Press

Georetown, S .C., Dec. 15—A unit of hastily-mobilized State militia mounted a machine gun on the second story porch of the Georgetown County Jail today and held back a mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols, bent on finding a colored man accused of attacking a white woman.

While the troops—five officers and 30 men—held off the crowd for several hours, Sheriff H. B. Bruorton and his deputies were scouring the countryside looking for the assailant, and they arrested a suspect who, presumably, was rushed off to some other part of the State for safe-keeping.

The sheriff said the victim identified the suspect.

The mob began forming about dawn. Men went to the sheriff's quarters and woke him, then forced him to turn over all the Negro prisoners in the jail, to see if the woman could identify her assailant among them.

When she failed, the mob turned 11 prisoners back to the sheriff, but continued to mill about the jail.

Battery D of the 178th Field Artillery of Georgetown was called to duty by Gov. Burnet R. Maybank in Columbia. The unit, under the command of Lieut. Col. L. C. Davis, patroled the jail grounds throughout the day, and the mob, as the day wore on, began to disperse.

The sheriff said the woman reported the man dragged her into a vacant lot, grown up in tall grass, last night and ravished her.

Mob In Charleston Fails To Get Negro

DEC 16 1940

GEORGETOWN, S. C.—(AP)—An unsuccessful attempt by an armed mob to gain custody of an alleged Negro assailant of a young white woman was investigated by state officials Monday while a Negro was held at the State Penitentiary in Columbia.

State militia were called out Sunday after a crowd forced Sheriff H. B. Brourton to turn over all 11 Negro prisoners in the Georgetown County Jail to determine if the woman could identify one as her assailant. She was unable to do so and the prisoners were returned.

As more men armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols arrived, Sheriff Bruorton, Mayor H. L. Smith and City Councilman F. L. Siau pleaded with them to disperse, saying the woman's assailant had not been arrested.

A militia unit mounted a machine gun on the second story porch of the jail and the group moved back.

Sheriff Bruorton meanwhile had searched the countryside with deputies and arrested a Negro he said had been identified by the woman as her assailant. The man was rushed to Columbia by a deputy and a state highway

MOB AFTER SUSPECT IS DISPERSED AT JAIL BY NATIONAL GUARD

Chicago Tribune

DEC 16 1940

Georgetown, S. C., Dec. 15 (AP).—A mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns, rifles, or pistols, besieged the Georgetown county jail here today in search of an alleged Negro assailant of a white woman, and was finally dispersed by a unit of state militia.

The militiamen—five officers and 30 men—mounted a machinegun on the porch of the second story of the building and kept the crowd covered while a deputy and a state highway patrolman hurried the accused assailant away to the state penitentiary in Columbia.

The mob began gathering soon after dawn this morning and in a short time charged the jail, forcing Sheriff W. B. Bruorton to bring out 11 Negro prisoners who had been arrested during the night on various charges. The victim could not identify any of the 11 as her assailant, however, and none of the prisoners was molested.

Carolina Mob Dispersed By State Troops

Montgomery Advertiser

Accused Negro Attacker Of Woman Is Saved From Violence

DEC 16 1940

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Dec. 15.—(AP)—A mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns and rifles, besieged the Georgetown County jail here today in search of an alleged negro assailant of a white woman, and were finally dispersed by a unit of State militia.

The militiamen—five officers and 30 men—mounted a machine-gun on the porch of the second story of the building and kept the crowd covered while a deputy and a State highway patrolman whisked the accused assailant to the State Penitentiary in Columbia.

The mob began gathering soon after dawn this morning and in a short time charged the jail and awoke Sheriff H. B. Bruorton. The sheriff estimated there were 300 men in the mob, most of them armed with rifles, shotguns or pistols.

The milling, angry crowd forced Sheriff Bruorton to bring out 11 negro prisoners who had been arrested during the night on various charges. The victim could not identify any of the 11 as her assailant, however, and none of the prisoners was molested.

The failure of the young woman to identify any of the prisoners and the pleadings of Sheriff Bruorton, Mayor H. L. Smith and City Councilman F. L. Siau kept down the temper of the crowd while the troops were being quickly mobilized.

Battery D of the 178th Field Artillery of Georgetown was called to duty by Gov. Burnet R. Maybank, of Columbia. The unit, under the command of Lieut. Col. L. C. Davis, patroled the jail grounds throughout the day, and the mob, as the day wore on, began to disperse.

Sheriff Bruorton said that "the real assailant" was not arrested until late in the day. He was quickly taken to the State prison in Columbia by State Highway Patrolman Legare Ansel and Deputy Sheriff D. L. Lawrimore.

The sheriff said that the alleged attack victim, a young married woman, identified the suspect. The prisoner's name was not obtained here.

The sheriff said the woman reported the negro dragged her into a vacant lot, grown up in tall grass, last night while she was walking home and ravished her.

Officials said the incident was the first time in 40 years that troops had to be called out to thwart threatened violence here.

ARMED MOB OF 300 CHARGES ON PRISON

Birmingham, Ala. Age-Herald

DEC 16 1940

Seeking Assailant Of Woman, Crowd Finally Dispersed

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Dec. 15—(AP)—A mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns and rifles, besieged the Georgetown County Jail here Sunday in search of an alleged Negro assailant of a white woman, and were finally dispersed by a unit of state militia.

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TROOPS GUARD JAIL AS MOB THREATENS

New York Times

New York, N.Y.

Militia Called in South Carolina Town First Time in 40 Years to Help Sheriff

NEGRO IS TAKEN TO PRISON

Arrested in Attack on Woman Who Identifies Him as Night Assailant

DEC 16 1940

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Dec. 15 (AP)—A unit of hastily mobilized State militia mounted a machine gun on the second-story porch of the Georgetown county jail today and held back a mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols, bent on finding the alleged Negro attacker of a young white woman.

While the troops, five officers and thirty men, held off the crowd for several hours, Sheriff H. B. Bruorton and his deputies were looking for the assailant in the near-by countryside. They arrested a Negro who, presumably, was rushed off to some other part of the State for safe keeping.

The Sheriff said that the Negro was George Thomas, 23 years old, of Georgetown, and that he was rushed to the State Penitentiary at Columbia. The prisoner was identified by the alleged victim, the Sheriff added.

The crowd began forming about dawn. Men went to the Sheriff's sleeping quarters and woke him; then, despite the officer's protest that he did not have the suspect, forced him to turn over all the Negro prisoners in the jail, to see if the woman could identify her assailant among them.

The Sheriff at first was forced to turn over only one of the prisoners. A group of the armed men took him in a truck to the woman's house and asked her if she could identify him. She said he was not the man.

Then the woman was brought to the jail. She stayed in the truck while the men took each of the other ten Negroes, one at a time, to her. As she failed to identify each he was turned back to the Sheriff.

In the jail were eleven Negroes who had been arrested during the night on various chargs. The woman could not identify any of them. The crowd turned the prisoners back to the Sheriff, but continued to mill about.

The failure of the young woman to identify any of the prisoners and the pleadings of Sheriff Bruorton, Mayor H. L. Smith and City Councilman F. L. Siau kept down the temper of the crowd while the troops were being mobilized.

Battery D of the 178th Field Artillery of Georgetown was called to duty by Governor Burnet R. Maybank. The unit, under the command of Lieut. Col. L. C. Davis, patrolled the jail grounds throughout the day, and the mob began to disperse as the day wore on.

Officials said the incident marked the first time in forty years that troops had to be called out to thwart threatened violence here.

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
December 16, 1940

LYNCHING IS AVERTED

NOTHING CAN BE said favoring the mob spirit, but it was subdued at Georgetown, South Carolina, yesterday to the extent that the lynching of a negro was averted.

Had the victim given the least indication toward identifying either of eleven negro prisoners produced by the jailer under mob command, the lynching is most certain to have occurred. She was sure that neither of them was guilty of causing the frightful ordeal to which she was subjected.

When men congregate with weapons and seeking vengeance, they become dangerous and, mentally upset by frenzy, may make fatal errors which can neither be recalled nor remedied. It is fortunate for everyone when the mob is denied fulfillment of its mission.

With the assailant of the unidentified young white woman in the state prison at Columbia, the state of South Carolina may properly proceed with its hearing in the matter until a conclusion is reached. The state is the authority constituted to handle such matters. The mob isn't.

We can understand the feeling that develops when such a crime is committed in a community. It is the worst violation that can happen to womanhood—too nerve-shattering to contemplate. But it never was right, never will be, for a mob to take the law into its own hands to be administered by a rope or the smoking muzzle of a gun barrel.

Our own opinion is, when a mob gathers the gathering place is one to avoid. And widely. Innocent persons have been hurt at some distance from such scenes.

Fortunately, the public has become further and further removed from the lynch spirit. But even yet such possibilities must be guarded against.

Troops Rout Carolina Mob

DEC 16 1940

Macon Telegraph

GEORGETOWN, S. C., [AP]—A mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns and rifles, besieged the Georgetown county jail here Saturday in search of an alleged Negro assailant of a white woman, and were finally dispersed by a unit of state militia.

The militiamen—five officers and 30 men—mounted a machine gun on the porch of the second story of the building and kept the crowd covered while a deputy and a state highway patrolman whisked the accused assailant to the state penitentiary in Columbia.

Macon Daily

The mob began gathering soon after dawn Sunday morning and in a short time charged the jail and awoke Sheriff H. B. Brouton. The sheriff estimated there were 300 men in the mob, most of them armed with rifles, shotguns or pistols.

The jeering, angry crowd forced Sheriff Bruorton to bring out 11 Negro prisoners who had been arrested during the night on various charges. The victim could not identify any of the 11 as her assailant, however, and none of the prisoners was molested.

The failure of the young woman to identify any of the prisoners and the pleadings of Sheriff Bruorton, Mayor H. L. Smith and City Councilman F. L. Siau kept down the temper of the crowd while the troops were being quickly mobilized.

Battery D of the 178th field artillery of Georgetown was called to duty by Governor Burnet R. Maybank of Columbia. The unit, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel L. C. Davis, patrolled the jail grounds throughout the day, and the mob, as the day wore on, began to disperse.

Sheriff Bruorton said that "the real assailant" was not arrested until late in the day. He was quickly taken to the state prison in Columbia by State Highway Patrolman Legare Ansel and Deputy Sheriff D. L. Lawrimore.

The sheriff said that the alleged attack victim, a young married woman, identified the suspect. The prisoner's name was not obtained here.

The sheriff said the woman reported the Negro dragged her into a vacant lot, grown up in tall grass, last night while she was walking home and ravished her.

Officials said the incident was the first time in four years that troops had to be called out to thwart threatened violence here.

Columbia S. C. Record
December 17, 1940

Serving Georgetown.

Governor Burnet R. Maybank acted promptly and wisely in ordering out the national guard to prevent a lynching at Georgetown; for properly and wisely the national guard may be used and should be in such cases to matntain order and to uphold the state's authority.

And Sheriff Bruorton, of Georgetown, acted promptly and wisely in moving his prisoner, charged with rape, from Georgetown to Columbia for safekeeping in the state penitentiary.

Georgetown when it gets over its first outburst of anger at the crime will feel deeply grateful to both the sheriff and the governor for their services to them in preventing the lynching. For Georgetown in its ordinary days is no lynching county and even the might-have-been-lynchers will rest easier for the fact that they have no blood upon their hands.

It is another demonstration of what can be done by local law-enforcement agencies to prevent lynchings, which is a greater achievement than attempting to punish lynchers after the fact.

Greenwood S. C. Index Journal
December 18, 1940

SERVINTG GEORGETOWN

From The Columbia Record.

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It is another demonstration of what can be done by local law-enforcement agencies to prevent lynchings, which is a greater achievement than attempting to punish lynchers after the fact.

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo
December 19, 1940

NO EXCUSE

There is no excuse for the action of a group of men in Georgetown, who patrolled the streets in cars and warned or ran Negroes off the streets.

The fact that one member of the Negro race had committed a destestable crime does not justify the mistreatment of good citizens, who deplore such crimes as much as anybody.

We have pointed out, in connection with racial violence, that while there may occur an occasional lynching in the South it is unusual for Southerners to persecute a race. This cruelty has been displayed in other sections of the nation, notably at East Chicago, Springfield, Illinois, and Missouri and, we believe, at Washington on one occasion.

The white people of the South know that there are good citizens of the Negro race, deserving appreciation and protection. Under no circumstances should those who assert white supremacy permit, or condone, activity that is directed against those who are known to be innocent, just because they are Negroes.

It is fortunate that Gov. Maybank called upon soldiers to restore order after a mob stormed the jail. It is also fortunate that the mob, in its effort to apprehend the guilty assailant, was not imbued by blind hatred of a race, or else prisoners taken from the jail would not have been returned unharmed when unidentified as the man sought.

Columbia S. C. State
December 20, 1940

GEORGETOWN . . . The situation in Georgetown, where considerable friction has developed between the whites and Negroes since efforts of a mob to secure custody of a Negro man, charged with a serious crime, has been watched closely in Columbia, especially around the offices of the governor and the adjutant general.

The Negro population in Georgetown is large as compared with the white. The figures for the two races for 1940 are not yet available, but in 1930, the number of Negroes was about 14,000 and whites 7,700. The ratio today is probably about the same, though the total population is larger.

Five officers and 68 men, all of the 178th Field artillery National Guard unit, were on duty in the town yesterday. Pay day at the big paper mill in Georgetown comes Saturday. If the weekend passes off quietly, prospects are that any actual clash between the two races will be avoided.

S. C. Jail Stormed By Mob

Daily World 7-24-42

Atlanta, Ga.

Double Lynching Is Prevented By Alert Officers

MONKS CORNER, S C.—(ANP)—Armed with shotguns, pistols and divers weapons, an angry mob of whites, placed at about 500 people from Berkeley and Charleston counties, stormed the Berkeley jail here a few nights ago in an attempt to wrest Alchrist (Pompey) Grant and his brother, Edward, from law officers after the two had been arrested in their homes at Liberty Hill in Charleston county and charged with criminal assault upon "a 15-year-old white girl." The mob gradually dispersed when it was revealed that the men had not been lodged here and their whereabouts were secret.

The Grant brothers were taken into custody last Wednesday morning following an all night vigil by a posse of more than 200 whites through woods and swamps near North Charleston. The search began when county officers were called by a white man who had beaten by a colored man and who allegedly "had run off with a white girl." The girl, firmly stated by colored residents of the section to be between "18 and 20 years of age," declared she was assaulted by "a colored man," but declared she was unable to recognize him. The white man who called county officers on the other hand, stated he could identify his assailant and, it is stated, led officers to the Grant home Wednesday morning.

DENY CHARGES

Both men declared they were innocent but the car used by the men in the alleged attack was discovered to be the property of Edward Grant. It was found abandoned and wrecked after an obvious chase.

Residents of the section declare the case is a typical one of white women crying "rape" as soon as their relations with Negro men are unveiled. The girl and another white woman are said to have been in the habit of walking out from North Charleston on the Yeaman Hall road and having dates with two colored men. Their white men friends, suspicions aroused, are said to have followed them and as they got into the parked car, to have accosted "Pompey" and another colored man and in an ensuing fight, the male friend of the younger woman was severely beaten, the women fled and then Grant with the car. No trace has been found of the other white woman or the colored man who was her companion on this early morning rendezvous.

EDWARD RELEASED

Many declare that Alchrist Grant was in the car but that the other man was not his brother Edward. Such seems plausible in that Edward was released Friday and returned home. Scores of other men have been detained and questioned. One such victim reports that he was placed in "the Sweat box at the Charleston police station and whipped" to confess the charges Later he was released. All whites have been ordered to move out of the Liberty hill section and forbidden to walk through it after dark. Negroes caught on the streets after dark are taken into police custody.

The young woman steadfastly refuses to identify Alchrist Grant as her assailant. Just the same he is being held at an unnamed destination pending formal arraignment here as soon as public sentiment cools. That the posse and mob that stormed the jail meant business was expressed the night of the vigil. Several white men, armed with various weapons, told a colored man in the Liberty hill section that "we've got to do something about these n——s Why down in Alabama a few weeks ago a mob of n——s threatened to lynch a white man." The white press of the affected areas have dropped copy of the happening like a hot potato. It had first played up the event as an assault case but when it perhaps secured the real story preferred not to use it.

500 In Angry S. C. Mob

Journal & Guide 7-25-42

Norfolk, Va.

Innocence Claimed By Two Brothers; One Is Released

MONKS CORNER, S. C. (ANP)—Armed with shotguns, pistols and diverse weapons, an angry mob of whites, placed at about 500 people from Berkley and Charleston counties, stormed the Berkley jail here a few nights ago in an attempt to wrest Alchrist (Pompey) Grant and his brother, Edward, from law officers after the two had been arrested in their homes at Liberty Hill in Charleston county and charged with criminal assault upon a "15-year-old white girl."

The mob gradually dispersed when it was revealed that the men had not been lodged here and their whereabouts were secret.

SAY GIRL 18 OR 20

The Grant brothers were taken into custody last Wednesday morning following in all night vigil by a posse of more than 200 whites through woods and swamps near North Charleston.

The search began when county officers were called by a white man who had been beaten by a colored man. The girl, firmly stated by colored residents of the section to be between "18 and 20 years of age," declared she was assaulted by "a colored man" but declared she was unable to recognize him.

The white man, who called county officers, stated he could identify his assailant and, it is reported led officers to the Grant home.

DECLARE INNOCENCE

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Residents of the section declare the case is a typical one of white women crying "rape" as soon as their relations with Negro men are unveiled. The girl and another white woman are said to have been in the habit of walking out from North Charleston on the Yeaman Hall road and having dates with two colored men.

Their white men friends, suspicions aroused, are said to have followed them and as they got into the parked car, to have accosted "Pompey" and another colored man and in an ensuing fight, the male friend of the younger woman was severely beaten, the women fled and then Grant with the car. No trace has been found of the other white woman or the colored man who was her companion on this early morning rendezvous.

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Journal & Guide 7-25-42 Norfolk, Va.

One such victim reports that he was placed in "the sweat box at the Charleston police station and whipped" to confess the charge. Later he was released.

All whites have been ordered to move out of the Liberty hill section and forbidden to walk through it after dark. Negroes caught on the streets after dark are taken into police custody.

WON'T IDENTIFY GRANT

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Several white men, armed with various weapons, told a colored man in the Liberty hill section that "we've got to do something about these n——s. Why down in Alabama a few weeks ago a mob of n——s threatened to lynch a white man."

The white press of the affected areas have dropped copy of the happening like a hot potato. It had first played up the event as an assault case but when it perhaps secured the real story preferred not to use it.

Negro Youth Captured In Carolina Slaying

SEP 23 1940

Journal & Guide

CHESTER, S. C. [AP]—Police Chief S. T. Weir said Will Hood, miss Willie Dixon, 28-year-old Negro, was arrested Sunday afternoon near Rock Hill and was taken to the state penitentiary at Columbia for safe-keeping.

Hood had been sought by officers and posses of citizens since late Friday when Walter W. Latham, a prominent farmer of the Blackstock community south of here was killed by a shotgun blast. Sheriff William H. Peden said Hood was the slayer.

But She Says He's Not the Man, that She Was Not Attacked and Reports Indicate There's a Cause Behind the Cause, for Mob's Action.

MONKS CORNER, S. C., July 25.—An armed mob of 500 stormed the jail here last Monday night to seize Alchirst 'Pompey' Grand and his brother, Edward, following a report that they had raped a 15-year-old white girl.

A posse of 200 men sought them all Tuesday night, tracing the brothers through a wrecked automobile they owned.

It was later disclosed that a white man had been beaten by a Negro and had made the charge of rape of the girl, actually between 18 and 20 years old, who denied she could identify the assailants, although the man said she could.

However, this girl and another woman are said to have had a habit of keeping dates with two colored men and their white friends followed them last Tuesday night, catching the girls as they got in the car of the men.

The whites attacked "Pompey" and his companion. One white man was beaten. The other colored man and white woman got away.

Edward Grant was released Friday and returned home after facts in the case were learned by officials.

A ban has been placed on whites walking through the Negro section where the fight took place after dark, and Negroes caught on the street at night are taken into custody.

The white girl refuses to identify "Pompey" as her assailant, although the white man who was beaten continues to say he was.

Carolina Mob Runs Negroes Out of Town

GEORGETOWN, S. C., [AP]—Negroes were driven from the streets of this ancient seaport town Monday night in the wake of a mob threat Sunday which was quieted after state militia mounted a machine gun on the porch of the county jail.

A group of men estimated by officers to number more than a hundred patrolled the streets in cars and warned all Negroes off the streets. The automobiles began touring the town after a mass meeting of some two hundred persons.

Drug stores and business houses employing Negroes as delivery boys made them leave their jobs and go home. Soon after nightfall newspaper reporters could not find a Negro on the streets anywhere in town.

A local unit of the National Guard, 30 men and five officers, was called to arms Sunday morning when an armed mob of 300 men, bent on finding the attacker of a young white woman, stormed the county jail. A few hours after the mob dispersed, the troops were demobilized.

The mob had forced Sheriff H. B. Bruorton at gun-point to turn over to it 11 Negro prisoners in the jail. The mob took each prisoner before the white woman but she could not identify any as the Negro she said dragged her into a vacant lot Saturday night and assaulted her.

The mob then turned the prisoners back to the sheriff. At about that time the militia arrived at the jail, and kept the mob at a distance until finally it dispersed.

JURY CONVICTS MEN IN SEVEN MINUTES; 'DAY OF DEATH', NOV. 29

Moncks Corner, S.C. Jury Gives Another Example of Dixie Justice—Frame-Up Hinted By Residents in Alleged Attack Case.

NOV 9 1940

MONCKS CORNER, S. C., Nov. 7—(ANP)—Alpheus 'Pompey' Grant and Cyrus Pinckney, of Liberty Hill in Charleston County, were sentenced to die in the electric chair here Friday for allegedly assaulting a young white woman near Yeaman's hall just over the Berkeley county line. The jury deated less than seven minutes.

FRAME-UP HINTED BY MANY RESIDENTS

The case dates back to July of this year when the two are alleged to have interrupted a midnight spooning party of two white couples and attempted to assault the girl whom authorities say is 15 years old but who appears much older.

Residents of the section in which all principal characters live swore to investigators that the two men had been "going" with the women and when they were caught together that night by the white boy friends the usual cry of "rape" was made.

Edward Chiselm, brother of Pompey, was arrested after a posse of several hundred whites combed the section. He was released later when it was revealed that his brother had used his car but he, himself, was in no manner involved in the case. Pinckney was taken into custody after being involved by Pompey Grant.

500 STORM JAIL;

LYNCHING AVERTED

A lynching of the pair was averted when a mob of 500 whites broke into the county jail here after the two were arrested. The men had been taken elsewhere.

The trial itself was more or less perfunctory. Court appointed counsel for the defendants offered no testimony and did not cross-examine the principal witness against the men, stating to her, "You have been through enough already."

A small court audience witnessed the trial and perfect order prevailed while the "blitzkrieg" of what is known as southern justice was administered. The men were sentenced to die November 29 in the electric chair.

Two days preceding this case, Eddie Wright, another Negro was sentenced to serve from 5 to 40 years for allegedly assaulting a white woman. He had been held in jail since August without the privilege of communicating with either relatives or a lawyer.

Charleston S. C. News & Courier
December 17, 1940

Attempts to lynch in South Carolina, and lynchings, have persisted because the people of South Carolina have neglected to punish by law, with reasonable promptitude, the criminals who inflame the passions of lynchers.

If, when a grave crime is committed, lawyers and courts postpone conviction and execution of criminals six months, a year or longer, sometimes saving them from the electric chair, whose fault is it?

If The State has had corrupt governors who have pardoned many felons, whose fault was it?

The fault is with the people of South Carolina. The courts are their creatures, lawyers practice by their license. They elect governors. They make the laws.

Men know well that were the execution of a rapist in two or three weeks sure, the excuses of lynchers would disappear. They know that swift punishment by law would be far more effective to prevent crime than is lawless punishment by revengeful mobs.

In the disturbed conditions following the World war two white men were brutally murdered, with robbery the motive, in a county of South Carolina about the same year. Five white men were arrested, convicted, and executed for the two murders.

Murders of that kind promptly came to end in that part of South Carolina.

In Great Britain, when a capital crime is committed, the perpetrator meets his fate within seven weeks. South Carolina's criminal law and procedure is basically the Common Law of England. In South Carolina capital crimes are about thirty to one in England, in proportion to population.

In plain words, the efforts to make lynching a federal crime are grounded on the premise that the people of South Carolina lack the capacity or the will to maintain a self-governing, civilized state.

South Carolina can reduce to a minimum all crimes if South Carolinians as a people have the character and capacity to enforce laws as well as to make them.

There is a disposition on the part of the federal government to impair or destroy state government and courts. Of that is no doubt. That has been fully proved in late years by numerous decisions interfering with state courts, some of them in relation to the courts of Alabama.

The federal government, as now constituted, does not love states. It does not believe in them. It regards them as nuisances, as obstacles to progress. It is carrying on a war of attrition against their sovereignty, its weapons being gifts and offices for which the people themselves pay. Strong, outspoken defenders of the rights of South Carolina are hardly visible in these days.

Whenever is an outbreak of violence in South Carolina, a riot, a resort to military force when there is no violence, the enemies of the state are handed new weapons and ammunition.

Unless the South Carolinians shall exhibit the will and the ability to punish crimes by law, they may expect their little state to be reduced to a province. They will cease to be citizens, they will be subjects, by whatsoever more polite name they be called.

War against the states is being waged. When the South Carolinians are derelict in enforcing law they become the allies of their state's foes.

6501

LYNCHINGS - 1940 PREVENTED

SOUTH CAROLINA

Roxboro, N. C. Courier
December 17, 1940

MORE HARMFUL THAN GOOD

Mob violence, even in cases involving rape, does far more harm than good.

Human passions are indeterminate things. Take, for example, a threatened lynching, which thank God was stopped in time, that almost took place in a city in South Carolina during the week-end.

The story as recorded in the press is that a mob of some 300 men visited the jail in Georgetown and demanded that a negro man who allegedly had attacked a white woman of the community be delivered up to them. The men were armed, it was said, and were in no mood to be balked. Officers had no choice but to bring all the prisoners out of the jail, line them up and wait for identification by the alleged victim.

The woman failed to identify her supposed assailant and therein lies a story within itself, for it gave the officers time to call in outside help that proved effective in holding the mob in check until the alleged attacker could be whisked away to safe keeping in the state penitentiary.

Rape is a very heinous crime and deserves heavy punishment, but even so serious a charge should be allowed to go through the orderly processes of the law and justice meted out according to the evidence presented. Mob violence, inflamed by human passions, does far more harm than does good and has no place in orderly society.

Lynchings and threats of them have become rare in recent years. This it not due, it is believed, to any laxity of the present generation in protecting virtue and purity; rather is it due to the growing conviction that law and order offer far better means for dealing with even the worst of crimes than mob violence does.

Savannah, Ga., News
December 19, 1940

A Lynching Averted

South Carolina military and civil authorities are deserving of praise for the successful manner in which they have thus far averted a lynching which would have marred the South's excellent record this year for permitting the courts to deal with persons suspected of crime commission. A dispatch yesterday said order apparently was re-enthroned in mob-ridden Georgetown, although bristling bayonets of national guardsmen remained unsheathed against further racial demonstrations that had resulted in the beating of ten negroes.

The disturbance was an outgrowth of a futile attempt last Saturday night by a mob to lynch a negro accused of criminally attacking a Georgetown white woman. The accused negro was whisked away to the state prison and the mobsters were unable to connect any of the other prisoners with the crime. Present indications are that the suspected attacker will be dealt with in accordance with the due processes of the constituted courts, without the necessity of resorting to lynch law.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
December 19, 1940

There Is a Way

At Georgetown, S. C., a Negro assailed a young white woman, according to allegations. A mob of several hundred quickly formed, the sheriff was routed out of bed and forced to give up the keys to the jail. But—

Governor Maybank acted. Suddenly the mobsters bent on lynching found themselves looking into the gun barrels of the militiamen. There was no lynching.

The mob had found time to manhandle several victims, but the indecison of the assaulted woman regarding the identity of her assailant was the factor which evidently saved a Negro's life and gave the militia time to appear on the scene.

Why the arrested Negroes should have been kept at the Georgetown jail while a mob was forming to raid it and get the black inmates is not clear. The sheriff apparently either failed to appreciate the significance of the event or else was in secret sympathy with the mob, or he would have dispatched the prisoners to some other town or city for safe keeping. Luckily, the Governor saw the situation in its true light.

Lynchings in the South are like traffic accidents. They can be prevented, if the will to prevent them is present. Elimination of mob violence through the process of education is necessarily a slow one, requiring years for its fuller success. But the prevention of lynching by wise and firm law enforcement is an immediate remedy which seldom fails if and when promptly and courageously applied.

Governor Maybank, of South Carolina, a liberal in more respects than one, deserves the applause of the nation for his quick, courageous action against hoodlumism and mob murder at Georgetown.

Columbia, S. C. Record
December 18, 1940

Militia Patrol In Georgetown

Town In Jittery State Since Mob Stormed Jail Sunday

GEORGETOWN, Dec. 18.—(AP)—The historic streets of this old seaport town were patrolled last night by a unit of the state militia, state highway patrolmen, governor's officer's and Georgetown policemen to keep down another demonstration against Negroes.

The town has been in a jittery state since Sunday when an armed mob stormed the county jail and removed negro prisoners. The prisoners were returned when an allegedly assaulted white woman said she recognized none of them. The militia mounted a machine gun and soon afterwards the mob dispersed. A man was arrested later and taken to the state penitentiary at Columbia.

On Sunday night a band of men went through the town and ordered all negroes off the streets. Drug stores and other establishments let negro delivery boys go home.

Many of Georgetown's white population became excited yesterday over reports that further violence would occur last night. In view of the state of affairs here, Governor Burnet R. Maybank again ordered the militia, battery D of the 178th field artillery, to take up its arms to establish order. The guardsmen were assisted by 12 state highway patrolmen, five governor's officers and ten policemen.

Daniel S. Lesesne, special governor's agent, was here to make a detailed inquiry.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
December 16, 1940

GUARD UNIT STOPS LYNCHING ATTEMPT

(International News Service.)

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Dec. 16.—A unit of hastily-mobilized state militia put a machine gun on the second story porch of the Georgetown county jail Sunday and held back a mob of 300 men, armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols, seeking the alleged negro attacker of a young white woman.

The troopers, five officers and 30 men, held off the crowd for several hours, while Sheriff H. B. Bruorton and his deputies scoured the countryside looking for the assailant. They arrested one negro who, presumably, was rushed off to some other part of the state for safe-keeping.

The sheriff said that the negro was identified by the alleged victim. The prisoner was not brought to the Georgetown jail and his name was kept secret.

The mob began forming about dawn yesterday morning. Men went to the sheriff's sleeping quarters and woke him; then, despite the officer's protest that he did not have the suspect, forced him to turn over all the negro prisoners in the jail, anyway, to see if the woman could identify her assailant among them.

The failure of the young woman to identify any of the prisoners and pleadings of Sheriff Bruorton, Mayor H. L. Smith and City Councilman F. L. Slau kept down the temper of the crowd while the troops were being quickly mobilized.

Machine Gun, Backed By National Guardsmen, Routs Carolina Mob

Courier

300 White Men and Women Miss Sunday Services in An Effort to Get Suspected Victim.

Pittsburgh, Pa. DEC 21 1940

GEORGETOWN, S. C., Dec. 19.—Three hundred armed men and women, a mob intent on murdering an alleged colored suspect in the county jail here Sunday, was held off by a determined detachment of 35 members of the National Guard. The suspect sought was accused of an attack on a woman.

All day long the mob milled in front of the jail while the members of the National Guard stood ready for action with a machine gun mounted on the second story porch of the jail.

At the time, the alleged suspect was not in the jail.

Early in the morning, the mob leaders came to the jail, aroused the sheriff and demanded the custody of the man sought. The sheriff denied the suspect was in the jail.

There were eleven other colored prisoners. The white woman who said she had been attacked was brought to the jail and all the prisoners marched before her. She did not identify any of them.

While the National Guardsmen held the jail, the sheriff and his deputies scoured the county and arrested a number of colored men. One of these, the sheriff said, was identified by the woman victim. He was taken to an unknown jail.

Sunday evening, after missing both church services, the mob before the local jail broke and its members returned to their homes.

USES STOVE POKER TO ROUT MISSOURI MOB

DEC 21 1940

CARUTHERSVILLE, Mo., Dec. 19—(Special)—Deputy Sheriff W. L. Thomas, armed only with a stove poker, put to rout Tuesday night a mob of upward of 100 white men who demanded the surrender to them of an unnamed race man charged with stabbing and attacking a 65-year-old white woman, threatened to storm the county jail here.

Danville, Va. Register
December 29, 1940

HOW TO PREVENT LYNCHING
(Christian Science Monitor)

Score one for the South. Quick mobilization of 30 militiamen and five officers in a South Carolina town a few days ago resulted in the dispersal of a mob of 300 armed men, bent on lynching a Negro.

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Some may ungraciously infer that the threat of the anti-lynching bill, still pending in Congress, is having its effect. We prefer to believe that the South, like many of us, is learning a little more about itself, and in this the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings is doubtless playing an important part. The falling off of lynchings in recent years seems to prove this.

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SPIRIT OF THE PRESS

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
January 7, 1941

HOW TO PREVENT LYNCHING

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PREVENTED

6502

POSSES IN CROCKETT HUNT 'MAD' SLAYER OF UNARMED SHERIFF

Commercial Appeal

Suspect Flees Farm Home After E. G. McLean Is Shot Down In Front Yard

7-26-40

CAPTURE REPORT DENIED

Memphis, Tenn.

Officers Continue To Scour Woods And Fields

FIRST BARRICADED SELF

Finis Avery Makes Good His Escape Despite Guard At Door—Death Brings Election Puzzle

By ALBERT CASON
Staff Correspondent

ALAMO, Tenn., July 25.—Denying earlier reports that Finis Avery, demented accused slayer of Sheriff E. G. McLean of Crockett County, had been captured after a gun fight, officers and citizens were still scouring the woods and fields late Thursday night in an effort to pick up the trail of the suspect.

Avery fled after the Wednesday midnight shooting at his farm near here.

Report Is Denied

Early Thursday afternoon it was reported that Avery had been captured in a cornfield near Bailey's Mill three and one-half miles east of Alamo. The report came from Bells where the city marshal said an unidentified posse member had telephoned him from Bailey's Mill of the capture. The report said Avery suffered a slight scalp wound when shot after refusing the first call to surrender. The report said the prisoner had been rushed to the Brownsville jail for safe keeping.

However, Mrs. R. C. Hawkins, wife of the Haywood County sheriff, denied early Thursday night that Avery was in the Brownsville jail.

Another report current early Thursday night said the capture was being denied to avoid any possibility of mob action as Sheriff McLean was one of the most popular peace officers in the history of Crockett County.

Investigating Complaint

Sheriff McLean, who was scheduled for re-election without opposition next Thursday, had gone to the Avery home to investigate a complaint that Avery had fired on a car passing his house earlier in the evening and had wounded a young girl, who with her escort and another couple were returning home from a movie at Bells.

According to Dr. Elisha Farrow, a physician at Bells who pronounced the sheriff dead from wounds in the chest and base of the neck, the tragedy occurred this way:

"The sheriff, accompanied by W. O. Herndon, Bells nightwatchman, and one of the girls' escorts, went to the Avery home to investigate a shooting. The sheriff entered Avery's front yard alone and called for Avery to come out. Avery was sitting on the porch at the time hidden by a vine, and when the sheriff called out a shot was fired and the sheriff fell.

Barricaded Self in House

"Avery then barricaded himself in the house and gathered his wife and five children around him so it was difficult to get to him," the doctor said.

"Meanwhile the sheriff's body was on the ground in front of the house and no one could get to him. A group of men, led by J. B. Avery, a lawyer and no relation to the man being sought, crawled up into the yard on their stomachs in an effort to get McLean's body.

"Avery sa wthem and put his gun through the front door. Other deputies covering Attorney Avery and the others saw the gun and started firing at it. Avery ran out the back door and escaped. Deputies were guarding the back but Avery managed to flee into a cornfield.

Attorney Gives Version

Attorney Avery, who led the group in the effort to get the sheriff's body from Finis Avery's yard, gave this version of the shooting:

"I was in the first car to arrive at the scene after the shooting. As we reached the front of Avery's house we could see the sheriff's body on the ground about 24 feet away. Avery had barricaded himself inside the house. We called to him to surrender and at one time it looked that he would give himself up. He came to the back door but ran back into the house. Later he escaped by the same back door."

At the time Sheriff McLean was shot he was carrying a warrant against Finis Avery charging assault to murder as a result of his shooting at the car in which two couples were riding, Attorney Avery said.

Gice Is Wounded

(A Miss Edwards of Union and Miss Vestal of Greenfrog were driving past the Avery home with two CCC boys from Brownsville when Avery, it was said, shot at the car, wounding Miss Edwards in the neck.)

Several other versions of the tragedy, corroborating the statements of Attorney Avery and Dr. Farrow, attributed the shooting to the possible insanity of the murder suspect, who, it was said, had been in Western State Hospital at Bolivar at least two times and had been pronounced insane.

Sheriff McLean, who was 61, was concluding his first terf of office. His slaying created an unusual election situation, since no Republican candidate has appeared to oppose him. Crockett County will therefore be without a candidate for sheriff unless arrangements for an extraordinary election procedure are made.

Never Carried a Gun

Coroner A. E. Harper of Crockett Mills is acting sheriff until the County Court appoints some one to fill out the unexpired term of Sheriff McLean or something is done about the election puzzle.

Sheriff McLean, who prided himself on the fact that he never had to carry a gun to enforce the law, was a native of Crockett County and had lived there all his life.

Besides his wife, he leaves five children. They are: Mrs. Felix Collins of Milan, Miss Jane McLean of Alamo, Mrs. J. D. Allen of Jackson, Tenn., Mrs. O. A. Coltrain of Alamo and P. T. McLean of Trenton. He also leaves two sisters, Mrs. C. H. Warren of Cairo, Tenn., and Miss Gracie McLean of Crockett County; three brothers, Deputy E. D. McLean of Alamo, I. N. McLean of Milan and Herschel McLean of Crockett County.

Funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Friday morning at First Christian Church at Alamo. The Rev. Frank Perry of Crockett Mills will officiate.

F: 1940, Lynching, Prevention

Toward Lynchless America

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By

MRS. JESSIE DANIEL AMES*

AN OLD Hindu proverb says that "the view depends upon the point of view." The point of view in considering lynching and conditions during recent years is of importance. If one sees lynching as an isolated crime unrelated to social conditions, then that person with this point of view undoubtedly considers punishment of the community in which the crime is committed the surest and, possibly, the one way to stop lynching.

On the other hand, if one sees lynching as a symptom of violent social disease which afflicts not the community alone in which the lynching occurs but a whole section of country, then that person considers that the disease must be cured to destroy the symptom. In other words, to those who believe lynchers are criminal devils, inherently wicked and depraved, then punishment, swift, severe, and sure, appeals; to those who believe lynchers are born into a social and economic system which turns them to acts of brutal violence, then change of the system appeals. Indeed, the view depends upon the point of view!

Lynching a Diminishing Crime

If people who lynch are born evil, then there is little point in discussing conditions during recent years. It must be concluded at once that lynchers have died off—they have not been punished for murder—or they have been miraculously regenerated. No one in his right mind will argue seriously that lynch-minded individuals have suddenly resolved overnight to stop lynching. Yet something must be taking place that is changing them. For lynchings have decreased so remarkably—from 3,080 in the decades 1882-1901 to 295 in the decades 1920-1939, and from 231 in 1892, the highest annual record, to 3 in 1939, the lowest — that it is clearly a diminishing crime in the United States. Going back of these figures, however, the observer may conclude that it is also a vanishing crime, for while in 1933 there were twenty-eight lynchings in eleven states, in 1939 there were three lynchings in two states.

Possibly lynchers are beginning to sense the change in public opinion which no longer supports them unreservedly. Maybe they recognize that their acts are not accepted as evidences of chivalry. Then, too, in addition to a changed public opinion which discourages their extra-legal methods, their economic conditions are improving. Neither of these factors operates instantly or separately. They become potent gradually over a long period of time. So, in order to understand conditions affecting lynchings in recent years, it is necessary to go back another decade to 1920.

South Takes a Stand

It was in the year 1919-20 that the South decided to do something in earnest about the problems of its bi-racial society. For ten years slow and apparently ineffective efforts to improve conditions through edu-

*General Field Secretary of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation and Executive Director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

cation were carried on. In that time it seemed as though nothing was evident except talk. To be sure the talking was done as much by Negroes as by white people and, even more important, Negroes were talking to the white people in person. Nor were they careful of the sentiments and emotions of their white brethren. The idea of holding conferences and meetings on an interracial basis gained support among Southern church leaders, men and women, educators and private citizens, until by 1930 thousands of Southern white people had met and talked with Southern Negroes, had sat down together and frankly discussed conditions affecting the lives of Southern people.

About this same time, too, the seeds of a new public opinion were beginning to be sown in Southern colleges. Then it was that these institutions began to liberalize their curricula to include sociology, economics, and political science — subjects with current and local applications. The young people reaching college age twenty years ago were an awakening group of future citizens. The war had made them restless and disobedient to the mores of the pre-war period. In addition, they were the third generation removed from the experiences of Reconstruction and their emotions of sectionalism and race prejudice were not so deep that they were blinded intellectually to the conditions of the present. Race relations, introduced with misgivings in a few of the colleges as a dangerous experiment in education, became popular courses which have spread in the last ten years to more than 75 white Southern colleges. The first students introduced to race relations are today men and women in their middle thirties. They and those who have reached maturity in later years hold opinions on conditions in the South's bi-racial society which are affecting public opinion on lynching and the causes underlying mob violence. The Southern colleges, reaching into more and more homes of the low, middle, and upper middle classes, are inevitably, if occasionally reluctantly, helping to destroy the old mores of the South.

Woman Suffrage Affects Attitudes

Far-fetched as the statement may appear, the enfranchisement of women in 1920 has contributed its mite to a new public opinion on lynching. The South did not accept suffrage for women; it acquired it in spite of the fight-to-the-last-ditch stand taken by both the Southern press and Southern politicians. That Southern women should have been slow to exercise the ballot as a weapon in the fight to make the world a better place for children was a natural consequence of the oft-repeated and generally accepted statement that no real lady would degrade herself by participating in politics. But younger women, growing to maturity, educated in the increasing numbers of co-educational schools, did not accept the dictum of the man-made society. They and those others who had fought for political freedom were seeking the proper medium for reaching the mass of women. They, being Southern born and bred, turned naturally to the one organization with which they were familiar—the church. They knew that the church was powerful, and they knew, also, that the strong hold of the church on social conditions could best be broken within the church itself. So in the church, the one recognized sanctuary for women's undisturbed activities, Southern women became active in race relations and law observance in their own land while they continued their work to extend the Kingdom of God to foreign lands.

Whatever else may be said about Southern women, it cannot be said that they lack the moral courage to act according to their convictions even though those convictions may run contrary to social custom. Certainly, investigation of lynchings in person was about the most contrary act they could have committed. But they had to have some understanding of lynchers and they had to have it first-hand. When from their own investigations of lynchings allegedly committed to protect Southern womanhood, they found that they were used as the shield behind which their own men committed cowardly acts of violence against a helpless people, they took the only action they

could. They pledged themselves to educate against lynching in the towns where they lived and to publish by word of mouth the facts about women and lynching. It was at this point that woman suffrage made its contribution to the decrease in lynching and the changing of public opinion. For these women spoke as citizens who had the assurance born of the knowledge that they had the power to affect the political lives of local and county politicians whose bread and butter depended upon the will and the wishes of their constituents. The politicians also knew it.

Church Women Change Situation

The influence of church women on the lynching situation is not a conjecture. It is a fact. In 1931 when they launched their campaign against lynching, some Southern editors expressed scorn—"It will be just as easy to stop lynching by resoluting against it as to prevent war by denouncing it"—or warnings "that they were doing a vain and useless thing." Ten years later, in 1939, not one of the three lynchings committed involved an offense against Southern womanhood—nor were there more than a few small newspapers expressing other than appreciation for the "courageous work" done by the women of the South.

These—interracial meetings, schools, the church and home, the press and Southern women as an organized block—are all contributing factors to a changing public opinion in the South toward lynching. To which one is due the most credit depends upon the point of view of the proponents of each. But regardless of credit, lynching is decreasing and disappearing by the initiative and support of Southern white people. Lynchers are no longer held in esteem and they are beginning to feel it.

But the would-be and have-been lynchers are themselves growing less committed to lynching than formerly. For the real conditions which have instigated most lynchings in the past have, themselves, been changing. Poverty, disease, illiteracy, starvation from one generation to the next, until malnutrition could be mistaken as an hereditary disease, have so afflicted the rural white and Negro South that hope of rising out of their desperate conditions was dormant if not dead. "Corn" and white supremacy have been the sole physical and emotional releases in the lives of most of the white rural population; "corn" and subtle aggression, the only physical and emotional releases of the depressed Negroes. Living side by side, under these stimulations, conflict has been inevitable.

Lynching and Price of Cotton

Past history of lynchings disclose that in periods of depression, when the price of cotton is down, this conflict is intensified. Lynchings increase. The landlords want all the cotton, or as one Georgia editor expresses it, "Now has come the season when the tenant farmer who has made the best crop will be run off from his crop." Under these circumstances mob violence eases the emotional pressure of disappointment and despair of the poor whites and scares the Negroes off the land. True to form, the first year of depression—1930—showed an increase of lynchings from ten in the year 1929, the lowest record of any previous year, to 21 the next year. Up to 1936, in fact, the barometer of lynchings moved in inverse ratio to the price of cotton. But in 1936, with the price of cotton still low, lynchings dropped to a new record and, since that year, lynchings have continued to decrease, each year setting a new low record.

The New Deal and Lynching

What happened that changed the course of lynching history? Nothing but hope, the most potent of forces in human existence, hope of better things in the lives of those who lynch and are lynched—the forgotten members of the American people. And here it is that the Federal Government enters the campaign against lynching, not with a flashing sword of vengeance but with promise of a better day for the rural farm laborers of the South. Work relief from the Federal and State Governments put these people to work and reduced idle-

ness and boredom and, equally as important, gave them a little cash money to spend with white merchants. The much-vaunted American pride did not deter them from accepting charity from tax money. They were working for the government for money and they did not have to work for just anyone for a pitiful roof and a pellagra-inducing diet. The Farm Security Administration offered them a chance to own something of their own for the price of the labor they had been doing for practically nothing in the past. Their children could go to school like other children. The Federal Government, in its entire agricultural program of work, home ownership, proper diet, and health clinics, entered the field against lynching.

White people still feel their racial supremacy as a sacred and inherent trust, but they are beginning to occupy their minds with the more pressing and important problem of living and earning and spending than with that of finding a Negro to lynch to prove their supremacy. Negroes, long at the bottom of the pile, are beginning to dig themselves out from under, and standing erect, no longer are they moved by the desire to arouse the equally helpless white man to dangerous acts. The Federal Government has not finished its work in the field of preventing lynchings, but it has made a good beginning, as is indicated by the fact that in 1939 not one of the three lynchings was committed in strictly rural communities.

Public opinion against lynching and the Federal Government in its socio-economic program are beginning to convince the South that Booker Washington was a sage of the greatest wisdom when he warned the South that "You cannot hold another down in the ditch without staying in the ditch with him."

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Department
Records and Research

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN WOMEN FOR THE PREVENTION OF LYNCHING
710 Standard Building
Atlanta, Georgia

Reprinted by permission of
American Council on Public Affairs
Washington, D. C.

December 1940
March 1941

ous political doctrine was a demand for reductions in high-bracket surtax rates.

The social program ardently wooed the Negro vote, arguing that the New Deal's attention to Negro relief needs had actually operated to shunt Negroes out of normal productive enterprise into a status of a separate relief economy. A section on Housing demanded the stimulation of private enterprise to build 4,656,000 needed housing units.



Wide World

G.O.P.'s MARTIN, GLENN FRANK
For practical men, a hopeful sniff.

The Republican National Committee, meeting last week in Washington, thanked Mr. Frank, ordered his work sent to every important Republican in the U. S.

In many a newspaper the program drew meager headlines; more exciting as immediate news had been the selection of Philadelphia as the convention city, of June 24 as the convention date. Dopesters had picked Chicago; GOP wiseacres wanted to meet in borderline Illinois. But Chicago's Mayor Ed Kelly promised a mingy $125,000 to meet convention expenses; more eloquently Philadelphia's Mayor Robert Lamberton promised to lay $200,000 on the line. Money talked.

FISCAL

"What Do You Think?"

Citizens of Montclair, N. J. had a mighty pretty letter in their mail last week. The letter, from Mayor William E. Speers and Director of Revenue and Finance Bayard H. Faulkner, said that the town treasury had a surplus of half a million dollars. "What do you think?" said the letter, "would you rather reduce the town's debt another $100,000, leaving $400,000 to cut 1940 taxes—or cut 1940 taxes the full $500,000? The enclosed postcard is for your judgment. . . ."

When Montclair's taxpayers had calmed down sufficiently to reply, they answered that they would take the $400,000 cut in the tax rate (which was already the lowest it has been in 13 years), and reduce the town debt.*

MARYLAND

In Worcester County

On his farm a mile outside of Stockton, Md., elderly Farmer Harvey Pilchard raised strawberries, potatoes, fruit. He was successful and well-to-do. One night last week he and Mrs. Pilchard sat listening to the radio. Someone knocked on the door. Mr. Pilchard shuffled over, opened it. From the darkness outside, a shotgun blasted into his face, killed him almost instantly. Three Negroes rushed in, demanded Annie Pilchard's money. She gave them her pocketbook, turned and ran upstairs. With cool brutality, one of the Negroes shot her in the back.

Even so, she managed to stagger up to the attic, crawled out of a window to the steep roof. There she clung while her husband's murderers ransacked the house, finally went away. All night she lay there, afraid they would come back. In the morning she was discovered, finally rescued by the Stockton Volunteer Fire Department. While Sheriff J. William Hall investigated, groups of enraged men started scouring Worcester County, searching Negro shacks, barns, cypress swamps.

One suspect was a Negro named Arthur Collick. Two days later two civilian possemen spotted him emerging from a swamp. With him were two women. The posse caught the women, but Collick escaped, plunging back into the cypress growth. The prisoners were Lillian Blake, Collick's common-law wife, and her 14-year-old daughter Martha. The two were taken to the county jail at Snow Hill, locked up.

In Pocomoke City, George Selby, another Negro, was picked up. Mindful of the near-by Princess Anne lynching in 1933, officers whisked Selby over the county line. Rumor flew that he had been jailed at Snow Hill too. Outside the little red brick building a mob began to gather. "Turn the damn niggers over to us!" they yelled. They pushed over a fence, surged up and pounded on the door.

Out stepped Sheriff Hall, one hand on a gun butt at his hip. It was a situation few sheriffs would like to face. But he faced it. "You've always known me to play fair with you boys," drawled he. "There's only two women in there." With calm deliberation he walked through the mob, got in a car, drove off. As he explained afterwards, he had been on duty 38 hours and he needed sleep.

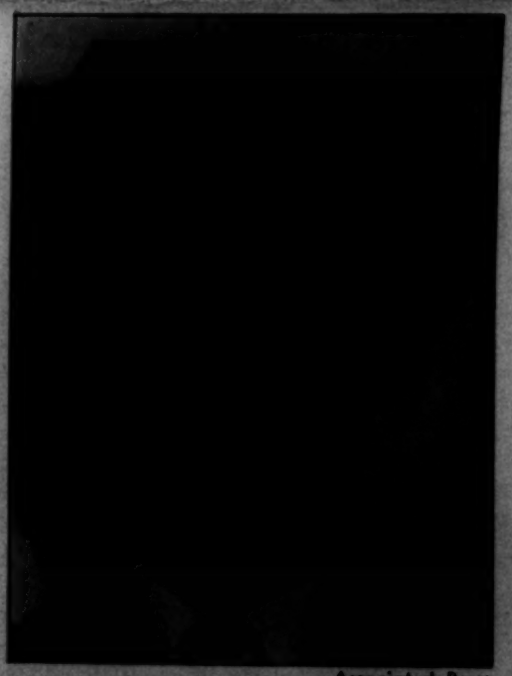
Left to face the mob was Jailer Gerald Bowen, who decided that the best way to avoid trouble was to admit a few men to the jailhouse and let them see that Hall had told the truth. That was what he did. Still the mob did not disperse. Someone suggested that they get the women out and question them. They rushed to a window and began to hacksaw the bars. Inside, Lillian Blake and her daughter began to pray.

Through the wrecked window men wriggled, seized the two women, dragged them screaming from the jail, roared off in a cavalcade of 200 cars.

This was the report received by Colonel Beverly Ober, State police head in Baltimore. He ordered every available trooper into Worcester County, sent Lieut. Ruxton Ridgely and Sergeant William H. Weber with orders to save the Negro women "at all costs." A member of Baltimore's exclusive Bachelors' Cotillion, twice married, good-looking Socialite Lieut. Ridgely spent his first honeymoon pursuing bootleggers, was famed for his exploits. No mob-fearer was Sergeant Weber, who was badly battered trying to stop the 1933 lynching. They flew to Salisbury, sped into Worcester County by car.

Meanwhile the mob had congealed in Stockton's four corners, yelling at the Negro women, asking them "How would you like to have this [rope] around your neck?" Terrified Lillian Blake promised to lead them to her man's hiding place. Someone pointed out that the two women, both barefoot, could walk faster if they were shod. A committee crowded into a store to buy shoes.

At that point Lieut. Ridgely and Sergeant Weber arrived. They grabbed the



Associated Press

LIEUTENANT RUXTON RIDGELY
The sheriff needed sleep.

women, waded back through the nonplussed mobsters, clubbing their way when someone tried to stop them. The report, later denied, was that they had fired one shot, pinked an oysterman in the hip. They stuffed the women into their car and drove away. By next morning one other Negro

* Another bright spot last week in municipal financing was in neighboring New York State, where a town with a population of 1,887 announced a surplus of $6,965. The town: Deposit.

was in their custody—Charles Manuel. As the search for Collick dragged on and a snowstorm wetted down mob spirit, tension in Worcester County relaxed.

Five days after the Pilchard murder, Collick, famished and tattered, ran plump into the arms of police. He and the other prisoners were safely transported to Harford County jail, on the other side of Chesapeake Bay.

Said State's Attorney William G. Kerbin, commenting on the storming of the Snow Hill jail: "First we've got to find out who did it. . . . It is my job to prosecute the men arrested by the sheriff. Ask him."

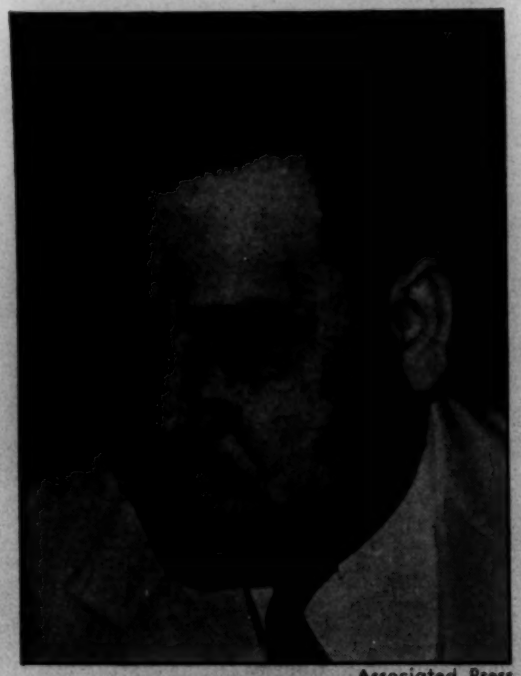
No action could be taken until after the murder case was settled, explained Sheriff Hall, refreshed by his sleep. But "there has to be an investigation," he pronounced. "The people are demanding one."

Having narrowly escaped another discreditable lynching, Maryland quickly charged Collick and Selby with murder, Manuel with shooting with intent to kill. Lillian and Martha Blake did not mind being held as witnesses. They grinned with pleasure over their new shoes.

LOUISIANA

Lonesome Man

One of the loneliest men in Louisiana last week was New Orleans' Mayor Robert Sidney Maestri. Gone were most of his henchmen, gone were most of his pals. Some 200 had been indicted by U. S. and Parish (County) Grand Juries, charged with sundry tricks of fraud, graft, income-tax evasion. Three had killed themselves. In U. S. courts five had pleaded guilty, five more had been tried and convicted. Among the head men of the Maestri machine (which once was Huey Long's), only Maestri himself and Huey's loud little brother, Governor Earl Long, were left untouched. And Earl was not much company. He was busy trying to convince Louisiana voters, just before a Democratic run-off primary this week, that that smell of corruption in the air was no reason to turn him out of the governorship and install Lawyer Sam Houston Jones.



Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS' BOSS
Still immune.

With the hard acumen which made him a multi-millionaire, Bob Maestri still ran New Orleans last week, and what was left of his State organization. And Louisianans still wondered how long he would be immune. Assistant U. S. Attorney General Oetje John Rogge had his eye on Mr. Maestri and his sources of income. In addition to being the biggest realty owner in New Orleans, Boss Maestri was a part owner of an oil company. From July 1935 to August 1936, Mr. Maestri was also the State official in charge of regulating Louisiana oil production. One of his imprisoned henchmen afterwards had the same job. During these two tenures, declared Mr. Rogge last week, 3,111,511 barrels of oil were illegally produced, and Mr. Maestri's profits from his company, one of the violators, amounted to $1,157,161. But, John Rogge regretfully added, there was nothing the U. S. could do about it; any violations were of State laws. About all that Prosecutor Rogge could do was to drop a broad hint to Louisiana's next Attorney General to put lonesome Mr. Maestri with Mr. Maestri's friends.

POLITICAL NOTES

Pudding

At a Lincoln Day banquet in Grand Rapids last week, Michigan's teetotaling old Governor Luren Dudley Dickinson innocently, happily ate rum pudding for dessert.

Old Tom

Boss Edward Hull Crump, of Memphis, Tenn., once offered to guarantee a bright young Washington attorney a handsome law practice if he would settle in Mistuh Crump's town. All the lawyer had to promise in return was to develop an intelligent, invigorating opposition to the all-powerful Crump political organization. Nothing came of this ingenious idea for keeping the Crumpets in fighting trim, so Ed Crump had to go on putting up with Tom Collier.

Tom Collier is as well known in Memphis as Ed Crump himself. He acquired his pronounced dislike for the Crump machine from his daddy, a white-bearded Confederate veteran who owned valuable property in Memphis and refused to pay taxes to Crump collectors. Tom Collier, who is a lawyer by avocation, devoted years to not paying taxes, finally lost much of his family's rich inheritance after 32 years of litigation and 750 tax suits. Between times he kept in trim by running barefoot in the early morning, accommodated the local photographers with outlandish poses (*see cut*), regularly ran for office against Crump candidates, regularly lost. (He served two terms in the State Legislature before Mr. Crump came to power.) Last week, for the third time, Mr. Collier again stood for Congress.



Associated Press

TOM COLLIER
. . . tries to keep the Crumpets in trim.

Against old (62) Tom Collier were two other negligible independents and Mr. Crump's brassy, psalm-singing Police Commissioner Clifford Davis. The vote: Tom Collier, 520; Clifford Davis, 30,300. Declared beaten but unbowed Tom Collier on election night: "If the people of Memphis want to remain cowed and contented, that's their business—but I won't. I'll be in there fighting again."

WOMEN

"I Like My Life"

The rugby neighborhood near Church and Flatbush Avenues in Brooklyn, N. Y. was mostly farm land 60 years ago. An immigrant German wood carver bought one of the fields, partly by his own labor put up a two-story frame house, settled in with his wife and their five-year-old daughter. The little girl's name was Josephine Amelia Claudius. After she grew up, she used to say that she was descended from one of the Claudian Emperors of Rome. This statement did not surprise Mrs. McGee and Mrs. McCormick, who lived near by, nor Milton Bruck at the stationery store, nor the people at the Lincoln Savings Bank on the corner. They knew Miss Claudius.

According to the considered opinion of the neighborhood, Miss Claudius was not insane. She was the smartest person in those parts. Everyone knew that she "had money." She also had a niece in North Carolina. Once Mrs. McGee remarked that the niece would certainly enjoy all that money some day. "She can enjoy it," said Miss Claudius. "I like my life."

Urges Mob to Lynch 3

Eastern Shore ex-Prof. Says Law Is Too Slow

POCOMOKE CITY, Md.—A column-length front page editorial advocating the lynching of the three men accused of the murder of Harvey Pilchard, white farmer, was published in the Worcester Democrat Saturday.

Signed by the editor, Dr. Edward H. Clark, a former English teacher at Washington College at Chestertown, the editorial, aimed at stirring up a section which had just seen a bloodthirsty mob halted by the intervention of State [illegible] tion, follow a trial of the men by a "citizens' court."

Under the heading, "Chirps," Clark wrote:

"In the face of grim tragedy, which has stalked abroad in our fair county this week and the shadow of which is hovering over the hearts and minds of all residents of Worcester, it is hard to think of other than serious things. Chirps have really changed to Gasps.

"What has happened within the past few days has hardly been equalled in the annals of shocking crime; perhaps the Berlin affair comes as close and perhaps was as horrible.

"But think of the situation. A respectable, thrifty white farmer, sitting at home, goes to answer a summons at his door. He is without warning killed as he stood, murdered by a Negro with a shot gun.

Demands Mercy

"The fiend, accompanied by one or maybe more, gets entry the house and adds robbery to [illegible] the woman made a widow a moment or two before. She gives him all she has—a paltry $18. He then proceeds to the third act in the awful drama—he adds the horror of criminal assault.

"Before this couple could recover the other accomplice, the woman flees to the home of her [illegible] climbs into a [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Urges Mob to Lynch 3

(Continued from Page 1)

ered when the light of the next day reveals the situation.

"There's the picture. A cold-blooded, premeditated, dastardly attack; unprovoked, unwarrantable, an exhibition of murderous instincts, race hatred, and insatiable lust; an event which occurred on the birthday anniversary of a great American, who is canonized almost by the Negro race as their deliverer from servile bondage—what a blasting argument against the possibility of good American citizenship ever evolving from the Fourteenth Amendment.

"Well, these savages are, of course, hunted down by officers of the law. Immediately, some of these noble-minded, goody-goody souls who fear that somebody will so far forget their own self-respect and their respect for the majesty of the law, as to resurrect a sometimes applied code to these murderous robbers and rapists, which law consists of a good stout rope, a noose at one end, good stout arms at the other, a neck and a limb of a tree—these sanctified humans begin their advice as to lynchings; they are horrified at the procedure; they descant upon the honor of State and country, they [illegible] to the good citizens mis[illegible] 'mobs.'

"They are mobs, the like of which constituted the Boston Tea Party of Revolutionary fame, and like others who fought to the finish every assailing of their rights.

"It makes a good red-blooded American's blood boil when these 'Better than Thouites' declaim from the housetops adherence to the laws of the land.

"I wonder just how far their outcries upon occasions such as the present are the echoes of expressions all along their path-way of life when they themselves are vitally, personally affected.

"What about lynching? These fiends who violated the home of the Pritchard family are the vilest of lynchers. They were not content to live according to the law. They violated the strictest mandates both from God and man; and yet they are to receive all the consideration of any other criminal, no matter what the sin.

"Lawless, they appeal to the law, and in many cases, profit by the law's delay and errors. Not willing to let others live, they seek by legal action to prolong their own lives; and regretfully, often succeeding by the law's intricacies.

[illegible] right to life have these brutes as are now at large, or ought to be?

[illegible] more than a rabid dog, a poisonous snake, or a disease-spreading germ. The quickest way of annihilation of such garbage [illegible] rid of it in the most salacious way—when once the guilt is assured.

"Give them the same road into the vast unknown by which they sent their innocent victims. For such, a citizens' court is as just

Avenue at Forbes Street.

REDS MAY NOMINATE FORD FOR VICE-PRESI

NEW YORK—James W. Ford is expected to be the Communist party candidate for vice-President of the United States to run on a ticket with Earl Browder, general secretary of the party, with whom he ran for the same office in 1936, it was announced after a closed meeting of the national committee here, this week.

Shell-Shocked Vet Takes Life

(Continued from Page 1)

slumped across the bathtub. Quickly gaining her composure, she telephoned police who removed the unconscious man to the Graduate Hospital where he died ten minutes later.

The victim's body was identified by Charles Hopkins, past commander of the Lieutenant Hilpp Post, Veteran of Foreign Wars, of which Hipkins was a member.

Employed for a while as a WPA worker, Hipkins lived at 822 S. Fifteenth Street. He was married but separated from his wife who is reported to be living in Massachusetts. Several residents in the vicinity told [illegible] that the victim suffered from hallucinations and constantly expressed the belief that someone was after him.

ANSWERS

(Test on Feature Page)

1. Langston Hughes.
2. Sank to the bottom.
3. Mimeograph.
4. Gold.
5. [illegible]

Rumor Puts Lloyd Gaines in Mexico

NEW YORK—An unconfirmed report reached here this week that Lloyd Gaines, principal in the NAACP's legal attack on the color bar at the University of Missouri law school, had been seen in Mexico City, Mexico, enjoying [illegible] with plenty of money to spend.

[illegible] appeal [illegible] of an

DIVISION OF [illegible] REEL 23

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

REPORT ON INSTANCES IN WHICH
MOB VIOLENCE OR LYNCHINGS
WERE PREVENTED, 1940
(January through November)

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons		Method Employed to Save Prisoner		
				White	Negro	Persons Removed	Guards Augmented	Force Used
——	ALA.	Shiloh Community Pike County	Fatally shooting a white man.		1	X		
7-3		Clayton Barbour County	Murder		1	X		
10-8		Elba Coffee County	Criminal Assault and Murder		1	X		
1-6		Near New Brockton Coffee County	Criminal Assault		1	X		
8-23	ARK.	Hope Hempstead County	Accused of robbery and fatally beating a white man.		1	X		
9-21		Tillar Drew County	Murder		1	X		
8-6		Augusta Woodruff County	Criminal Assault and Murder		1	X		
2-19	FLA.	Tallahassee Leon County	Fatal shooting of two officers of the law.		4	X		

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons		Method Employed to Save Prisoner		
				White	Negro	Persons Reserved	Guards Augmented	Force Used
8-24	GA.	Cairo Grady County	Criminal Assault		1	X		
4-6		Cairo Grady County	Attempted Criminal Assault		1	X		
6-23	ILL.	Litchfield Montgomery County	Unwillingness to salute the American flag.	1			X	
10-31	IND.	Salem Washington County	Fatally shooting a witness.	1			X	
2-13	MD.	Snow Hill Worcester County	Witnesses of fatal shooting of white farmer and wounding his wife.		2	X	X	X
2-16		Snow Hill Worcester County	Fatal shooting of white farmer and criminally assaulting his wife.		1	X		
1-9	MISS.	Prentiss Jefferson Davis County	Slaying a white man.		2	X	X	
7-24		Meridian Lauderdale County	Dangerous and suspicious person (purse snatching).		1	Officer [illegible] his posse.		
8-6		Philadelphia Neshoba County	Wanted in connection with homicide charge.	1		X		

Date	State	Place	Charge	Number of Persons		Method Employed to Save Prisoner		
				White	Negro	Persons Removed	Guards Augmented	Force Used
2-15	N. C.	Clinton Sampson County	Attempted Rape		1	X	X	
3-29	PENN.	State College Center County	Murder	1		X	X	
7—	S. C.	Moncks Corner Berkeley County	Criminal Assault		2	X		
9-22		Chester Chester County	Killing of Sheriff		1	X		

LYNCHING
RAPE ALLEGED ATTACKS
BY NEGROES

6531

'Scottsboro' Defendant Is Freed Anew

8-1-40
Montgomery, Ala

Complainant In Detroit Assault Case Refuses To Sign Warrant

By Associated Press

DETROIT, July 31.—Olen Montgomery, 28, identified by officers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as one of nine defendants in the celebrated Scottsboro case, was freed on a writ of habeas corpus here today after a complainant refused to sign a warrant charging criminal attack.

Montgomery had been in jail since Saturday, when he was arrested. Recorder's Judge Christopher E. Stein, in granting the writ that freed him, advised him to leave Detroit.

Police said the complainant, a negro woman, ran into a police station and declared Montgomery had threatened her with a knife, then attacked her. She testified in court, however, that she did not want to sign a warrant for fear of "unfavorable publicity."

Montgomery admitted he was one of nine negro youths condemned to death in 1931 following their conviction on charges of assaulting two white girls in Alabama in 1931. The death sentences were reversed, and he and three others were later acquitted. Five are serving prison terms.

tion and declared she had been attacked after Montgomery threatened her with a knife.

Montgomery admitted he was one of the group of Scottsboro youths whose death sentences were reversed or commuted following charges of assault upon two white girls in Alabama in 1931, but he denied the charge on which he was arrested today.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post
July 27, 1940

...ers showed the largest ... flowed in ord... by jewelry s... and furniture stores.

The report disclosed that Charleston showed the largest gain of any other city in the state.

8-1-40

Scottsboro Case Negro Arrested

Detroit, July 27. (AP)—Olen Montgomery, 28, identified by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as one of the nine defendants in the celebrated Scottsboro case, was arrested today on a charge of criminally assaulting a 26-year-old negress.

Policewoman Sally Darden said Montgomery was arrested after the woman had run into a police sta-

6503

LYNCHINGS - 1940
RAPE, ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

ALABAMA

Negro Youth Hunted In Reported Attack

NOV 23 1940

An investigation was being continued Saturday by sheriff's deputies, who were seeking a young Negro reported to have criminally attacked a 12-year-old white girl Friday in the vicinity of her home adjoining the Colonial Coal & Coke Company property near Pratt City.

Sheriff's Deputies A. J. Dunn and J. L. Boggan, who were assigned to the case by Chief Deputy Henry S. Hill, said the young victim was treated at Hillman Hospital after the reported attack and later taken to her home. The deputies said they were informed the child's condition was not serious.

According to Deputy Dunn, the girl and two brothers, one 5 and the other 10, had been sent by their mother to search for a strayed cow. The girl and her younger brother went to search in one direction, Deputy Dunn said he learned, while the 10-year-old brother went alone in another direction.

When the girl and her brother were accosted by the Negro, he offered to help them hunt for the cow, asserting he believed he knew where the animal was, Dunn said he learned. Leading the child into a secluded field near by, the deputy continued, the Negro reportedly attacked the girl.

The girl was quoted by Dunn as saying her brother tried to fight the Negro and was slapped to the ground. A threat was made by the Negro to kill the girl if she told of the attack, according to Deputy Dunn.

The investigating officers said they were informed the Negro attacker was armed with an ax and a knife, and Deputy Dunn reported finding a knife near where he was told the attack occurred. From the description furnished them, Deputies Dunn and Boggan said they were seeking a Negro about 17 or 18 years old.

16-Year-Old Negro Accused Of Attacking 12-Year-Old Girl

Sheriff's Deputies J. L. Boggan and A. J. Dunn Wednesday swore out a warrant charging Everette Washington, 16-year-old Pratt City Negro, with a criminal attack last Friday on a 12-year-old white girl near her home in Colonial Heights.

The deputies said Washington, whom they arrested early Tuesday night at his home, 822 Lafayette Avenue, admitted he attacked the girl.

The deputies said the girl was attacked after she and a 5-year-old brother had been sent by their mother to search for a strayed cow.

The girl was quoted by the deputies as saying she and her brother were accosted by a young Negro, who offered to help them hunt for the cow, saying he believed he knew where the animal was. Leading the two children into a nearby field, the Negro then attacked the girl, Deputies Dunn and Boggan said they had learned.

The girl was quoted by the two officers as saying her brother fought the Negro and was knocked down.

The Negro threatened to kill the girl if she told her parents, the deputies said they were informed.

The Negro was armed with an ax and a knife, according to Dunn, who said he found a knife near the scene.

The young girl, the daughter of a miner, was treated at Hillman Hospital and taken home.

Woman Is Attacked, Her Companion Killed In Talladega Crime

DEC 16 1940

Two Suspects Are Held In Slaying Of Sawmill Operator And Assault

TALLADEGA, Ala.—Despite the story given by Mrs. Vera Edwards, 36, that the man who shot and killed her companion, Leamon Shields, and attacked her as they were parked in an automobile Saturday night was a Negro, Sheriff G. W. Burk disclosed Monday that two white suspects were still being questioned in connection with the case.

Sheriff Burk declined to give the names of the two men but said he had adequate reasons for holding the two men pending completion of his investigation.

Mrs. Edwards, divorced four years ago, and Shields, 46, married and operator of a sawmill near Sycamore, were victims of the attack shortly before 8 p.m. Saturday. They were in a new automobile which had been delivered to Mrs. Edwards earlier Saturday.

Sheriff Burk said the slaying occurred about a mile from Sycamore, in a clum pof woods a quarter of a mile from the main highway.

Mrs. Edwards reported, according to Sheriff Burk, the assailant, a Negro, appeared suddenly beside the car with a shotgun leveled and declared "Oh, yes, white folks, I got ya, I got ya!"

A moment later, Sheriff Burk said he was told, Shields was shot and apparently killed instantly.

After the assailant departed, Mrs. Edwards told Sheriff Burk she drove the car to a house on the Talladega-Sylacauga Highway and reported the tragedy. Mrs. Edwards was dismissed from the Sylacauga Hospital later Saturday night after receiving emergency medical treatment.

Sheriff Burk said bloodhounds from Kilby Prison were taken to the slaying scene but lost the trail at the main highway. One or two empty shotgun shells were found at the place where the car had been parked, the sheriff added.

Funeral services were held Monday morning for Shields at the Shields residence, after which the body was taken to Gadsden for burial in Young's Chapel Cemetery.

Besides his widow, Shields is survived by a daughter, Edna Shields; a son, Joe Ed Shields, and a brother, W. D. Shields.

MAN IS SHOT TO DEATH; WOMAN REPORTS ATTACK

Woods Near Sylacauga Given As Scene Of Shotgun Slaying

DEC 16 1940

TALLADEGA, Ala., Dec. 15 — Sheriff G. W. Burk, of Talladega County, said a man identified as Leamon Shields, 46-year-old sawmill operator, of near Sycamore, was killed by a shotgun blast Saturday night and his woman companion reported she was attacked by an assailant who approached their automobile about four miles north of Sylacauga.

Sheriff Burk said he was holding two white men in Talladega County Jail pending further investigation of the case. The sheriff did not give their names.

Time Of Shooting Told

Sheriff Burk said Shields was slain between 7:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday in woods about a quarter of a mile off the Talladega-Sylacauga Highway. Shields, he said, was struck one time at close range with the charge from a 12 gauge shotgun. The sawmill operator, he asserted, died "almost instantly" from a wound in the left side.

Sheriff Burk said the woman, after the assailant left, drove the automobile to a house on the Talladega-Sylacauga Highway. From the house, he said, she was taken to the Sylacauga Hospital. She was not seriously injured and left the hospital for her home Saturday night, the sheriff said.

The woman, the sheriff asserted, was divorced.

Assailant Sought

After the slaying was reported, Sheriff Burk said, county officers, state highway patrolmen and private citizens searched the woods for the assailant.

The sheriff said bloodhounds from Kilby Prison were also used in the search but the dogs, he asserted, lost the trail when they came to the highway.

Sheriff Burk said he found "one or two" empty shotgun shells near the point where the sawmill operator had been killed. The automobile, he said, was the property of the woman and had been purchased Saturday.

Funeral for Shields will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at his home, the Service Funeral Home at Sylacauga reported. Burial will be at Young's Chapel Cemetery, near Gadsden.

Shields is survived by his wife, a daughter, Edna Shields; a son, Joe Ed Shields, and a brother, W. D. Shields. The latter lives at Route 2, Gadsden.

State Patrolmen Join Talladega Slayer Hunt

DEC 3 1940

Seven highway patrolmen were dispatched Monday to aid in a search in the hill country of Talladega County for a Negro, sought in the shotgun slaying of Lee Shields, white man, and the attack on his woman companion two weeks ago.

State Safety Director T. Weller Smith said the patrolmen were assisting a posse headed by Sheriff George Burke of Talladega County. He identified the negro suspect as Julius Jackson, an alleged former convict.

Bloodhounds have been brought into the chase.

Shields was slain December 14 as he and a woman companion sat in a parked automobile off the Sylacauga-Talladega highway. The woman was afterwards attacked by the assailant, she told officers.

Freed Scottsboro Boy Tells Of Troubles Since Release

DEC 15 1940

By WILLIAM FOWLKES

Olin Montgomery, one of the four liberated "Scottsboro Boys" was on his way North and away from his Atlanta home Thursday because he feared for safety and peace of his family.

Montgomery had been in Atlanta seven weeks, staying at the home of his mother and sister on Simpson Street. He had tried to get a job to be near his people and to "settle down" and be a good citizen. But last Monday an incident occurred which convinced him more that he might fare better in other parts of the nation than the South which kept him jailed for six years and seven months for a crime he insists he didn't do.

The 28-year-old native Atlantan whose sight is failing said he was on his way home Monday from Marietta Street stockyard, where he sought employment, when accosted by two railroad detectives.

FIND LETTER

Only crossing the railroad tracks at the time, Montgomery said the officers patted him down and found a letter he had received from Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, white minister of Broadway Tabernacle Church, New York, who is carrying on and in Washington, D. C., in the effort to secure funds. When that venture failed because of poor managing by others, Montgomery and Wright went on a speaking tour. Since then the boys have led separate lives, some being in the charge of interested people in the North.

TELLS OF OTHER BOYS

In response to the query of what has become of the other released Scottsboro Boys, Montgomery revealed the following:

Willie Robinson, also an Atlanta boy, is in Brooklyn, New York, which he has not left since the date he arrived there after the July 24, 1937, sensational release. Sick with asthma, Robinson is reported as unemployed.

Eugene Williams has been in Chicago since the release, having been placed in the care of the late Dr. L. K. Williams, Baptist leader. How he is faring now was not known.

Roy Wright was learning to press clothes in a New York shop when Montgomery last saw him several months ago. Wright was placed in the Bordentown industrial school and cared for by "Bill" Robinson, noted tap dancer.

SERVING 99 YEARS

Still in prison are Andy Wright, brother of Roy, serving a 99-year term for criminal assault; Charlie Weems, serving 75 years for criminal assault; Haywood Patterson, serving 75 years for criminal assault; Clarence Norris, serving a life term following commutation of a death chair sentence, criminal assault, and Ozie Powell, serving 25 years for assault with intent to murder of a deputy sheriff transporting him to one of the many trials.

Montgomery preferred not to recall too much of his imprisonment, which he said was filled with torture and trials. He said that he was inside a boxcar on the end of the train, a number of cars back from the one in which a fight ensued between white and colored boys riding the train from Chattanooga, Tennessee into Alabama and which led to their arrest for criminal assault of two young white women. He said that the whole matter was a fram-up and that the boys were rounded up from all parts of the train and made to face the assault charge.

Suspect In Talladega Slaying And Attack Loses Posse In Swamp

Negro Sought In Death Of Man And Assault Of Woman Still At Large

DEC 31 1940

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Sloshing through the slime and mire and hurling his body through the tangled vines and underbrush of a swamp near Sylacauga, a Negro sought for the shotgun slaying of Lee Shields eluded a posse of officers and a pack of bloodhounds early Monday night.

The Negro, was described by Chief T. Weller Smith, of the Highway Patrol, as a former convict. Shields was slain and his woman companion criminally attacked two days ago. Following the slaying two white men were questioned by Sheriff George Burke, but released.

Later the wife of the Negro pursued Monday told officers her husband had come home on the night of the slaying and related to her how he had killed Shields and attacked the white woman. The Negro woman is being held as a material witness.

The former convict was recognized near Talladega Monday and Sheriff Burke, aided by seven highway patrolmen and a small group of civilians, pursued him until he lost himself in the swamp.

Negro's Wife Links Him To Killing, Attack

Tells Talladega Officer He Slew Lee Shields, Assaulted Companion

DEC 2 5 1940

TALLADEGA, ALA., Dec. 2[illegible]—(AP)—Sheriff George Burke announced tonight a negro who had been implicated by his wife was being sought in the shotgun slaying of Lee Shields and an alleged assault upon the white man's woman companion the night of Dec. 14.

While declining to reveal her name, the sheriff said the negro's wife was being held in jail here as a material witness, that a wrist watch taken from Shields's companion had been found in a well, the shotgun located, and blood-stained clothing seized.

Deputies sheriff and State patrolmen spent a fruitless day in searching for the negro in Coosa, Elmore and Talladega Counties. Burke described him as "a former penitentiary inmate," and praised State officers for their assistance "in breaking the case."

Both the sheriff and State patrolmen predicted the negro's capture within 48 hours, and Burke announced that the white woman, victim of the reported assault, her former husband and another man were released from jail here yesterday. They had been held in connection with the investigation, he said.

Shields, about 45, was killed by a shotgun blast into his left side as he and his companion sat in a parked automobile off the Sylacauga-Talladega Highway, and Police Officer H. E. Holmes quoted the woman as saying the assailant forced her to accompany him about 100 yards from the car, where she was attacked. She attracted passersby but was unable to say at the time, officers said, whether her attacker was a negro or white man.

The negro's wife, Sheriff Burke declared, told officers that her husband came home the night of Dec. 14, advised her he had killed a white man and attacked a woman.

According to the wife's story as repeated by the officer, her husband also told her he had taken some money off the man and a wristwatch from the woman, and attempted to give her the watch.

When she refused the gift, Burke said the woman told him the negro threw the watch into a well, where it was located by officers.

6504

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

ALABAMA

Woman Attacked; Negro At Kilby

Coffee County Matron Is Surprised At Home

ENTERPRISE, ALA., Jan. 6.—(AP)—A prominent young white woman of Wesley Chapel community near New Brockton (Coffee County) was beaten and attacked today and a 23-year-old negro who, Sheriff J. D. Stewart said confessed the crime was sped by State patrolmen to Kilby Prison in Montgomery.

Stewart said he ordered transfer of the negro, known to him only as "Branden," as a precaution against violence.

The woman was brought to an Enterprise hospital for treatment. Several of her teeth were knocked out, Stewart reported, but her condition was not critical.

The sheriff said he was advised she was surprised by a negro while at home alone.

Stewart and Deputy Walker Thomas arrested "Branden" in a woods three miles from the scene of the attack, being led to the hiding place by the accused negro's father.

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Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
August 1, 1940

A Sequel To Scottsboro

FROM Detroit, Mich., comes the latest sequel to Alabama's infamous Scottsboro Case. This chapter began to unravel itself last Saturday when Olen Montgomery, 28, one of the nine original Scottsboro defendants, was arrested on a charge of attempting to rape a negro woman in Detroit.

Late yesterday afternoon, Montgomery was turned loose and advised "to leave Detroit." The negro woman involved said she would not sign a warrant charging Montgomery with rape because she feared "unfavorable publicity."

Montgomery was one of four negroes against the Scottsboro rape charges, proved before several juries, were dropped by Alabama as a result of great pressure on the part of left-wing elements from the East who eventually enlisted the help of some of this state's leading citizens. Some of Alabama's biggest newspapers fell for this sentimental gag. It was contended that Montgomery was almost blind, and "incapable" of committing the crime for which he had been convicted. Five of his Scottsboro companions are still in the state penitentiary.

The campaign for release of these prisoners, still being revived intermittently, certainly is not aided one whit by Montgomery's conduct in Detroit.

One news service, in relating how Montgomery invaded the negro woman's home and attacked her at the point of a 4-inch knife, quotes the man as saying "I just made a mistake and got too drunk. I got to have some pleasure."

Here is an eloquent example of a miscarriage of justice in two incidents, first in Montgomery's release from an Alabama prison and second in his freedom granted yesterday in Detroit.

The law has a tangled web from which escape is often easy for those who have counsel who know the ropes. Habeas corpus proceedings such as those which released Montgomery yesterday are accepted as good maneuvers by lawyers who defend criminals.

But there is a double tragedy behind the fact that the victim of Montgomery's rapine is afraid to sign a warrant against him. That negro woman knows how the whole commonwealth of Alabama was persecuted for dealing out justice to Montgomery and his Scottsboro mates.

It is natural that she should fear like persecution if she took the stand against this "celebrated" defendant. One cannot but wonder what threats had already been made against her by sinister forces which have sought for so long to pin the lily-white badge upon the black crime against two young white women at Scottsboro back in 1931.

Albany-Decatur, Ala., Daily
August 3, 1940

MONTGOMERY CASE

The recent plight of Olen Montgomery, that paragon of virtue, whose misfortune several years ago in becoming involved in criminal proceedings among the benighted people of Alabama aroused the indignation of Samuel Simon Leibowitz, The Society for the Advancement of Colored People, John Temple Graves and others, has not entirely escaped notice by the press.

After a supreme court decision freed him from one sentence of death in Alabama upon conviction of participating in a mass attack on two white girls, charges against Montgomery finally were dropped in this state.

Montgomery's counsel, Samuel Simon Leibowitz, at the time spoke glowingly and at considerable length about the new opportunities for the freed negro and the plans of Samuel Simon Leibowitz for Montgomery's rehabilitation. One inferred Samuel Simon Leibowitz expected to erase completely from Montgomery's memory all recollection of the things he suffered at the hands of the tyrants of Alabama.

Samuel Simon Leibowitz's efforts at rehabilitation were so successful that a few days ago Montgomery found himself again behind the bars. This time, however, the locale was not Alabama—but Detroit. The charge again was rape—this time not an attack on a white woman in Alabama but upon a negro girl in Detroit.

This time the scene of the alleged crime was not a freight train but the home of the victim.

"I just got drunk," Montgomery explained.

But Michigan will not seek the life of Olen Montgomery as a forfeit. Michigan will not even seek to have Montgomery incarcerated in the penitentiary, because the complainant declined to sign a complaint. This development causes The Tuscaloosa News to wonder if pressure was brought to bear to keep her from going into court as the prosecuting witness.

Considering the anathema heaped upon the prosecuting witness, prosecuting officials, juries and all court officials concerned with the case in Alabama, it is not surprising that the negro girl in Detroit decided not to continue the charges.

Never-the-less what The News calls "A Sequel to Scottsboro" does make rather ridiculous the position taken by some Alabamians who arrayed themselves beside that plumed knight of the east, that defender of the faith, that sterling warrior in behalf of the weak, the peerless Samuel Simon Leibowitz.

The News says:

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Young Negro Accused Of Attack Attempts Faces Capital Charge

Sheriff's Deputy C. B. Jones said today a warrant charging nighttime burglary of an inhabited dwelling, a capital offense in Alabama, had been sworn out in Bessemer against a 15-year-old Powderly Negro asserted by the deputy to have been positively identified as the attempted attacker of two white women at Powderly and Wilkes Station last week.

The Negro, Henry Jones, is being held without bond in Juvenile Court pending a hearing there to have the case transferred to Bessemer Circuit Court.

Jones said the warrant for the Negro was sworn out by Mrs. James C. Sparks, of Wilkes Station. The officer said he had been told by Mrs. Sparks that she was awakened one morning last week when a Negro stepped through a window at her home onto a bed on which she was sleeping. Mrs. Sparks was quoted by Jones as saying that the Negro fled when she resisted him.

Shortly before the intruder appeared at Wilkes Station, Jones said, a similar incident was reported at Powderly. Jones said a bicycle was stolen at a house near by and that the wheel was later found near the Wilkes Station residence.

The Negro who entered the Sparks residence, Jones said, stepped on a grater as he left. Marks which apparently had been made by the grater were found on the feet of the Negro under arrest, Jones said.

The deputy expressed the opinion that an effort was made to use chloroform in the two attempted attacks.

Negro Being Sought In Attempted Attack On Woman In County

Jefferson County law enforcement officers today were seeking at least one Negro in connection with an attempted criminal attack early this morning on a woman at her residence on the Bessemer Super-Highway near Wilkes Station.

The attempted attack, according to officers, occurred about 2 a.m. John MacFarland, county fingerprint expert, said it was reported that a barefooted Negro entered a house at Wilkes Station, stepping through a window onto a bed where the housewife was sleeping. MacFarland said the woman told him she was awakened when the Negro grabbed her arm and told her not to make any noise.

The Negro, according to MacFarland, fled when the woman fought back at him. County bloodhounds were summoned and MacFarland said the trail of the Negro was picked up near the house. The Negro, according to MacFarland, left behind a bicycle when pursued by the dogs and fled into the woods. It was believed he escaped in a car, since several other Negroes were seen in the vicinity riding in an automobile without any lights showing.

Deputies C. B. Jones and Milton Ferguson, of Birmingham; Bessemer deputies and police from Bessemer, Lipscomb and Brighton assisted in the investigation.

MacFarland said he had been informed the Birmingham Police Department had investigated a similar attempted attack about one mile nearer Birmingham, but inquiry at Birmingham and Ensley police headquarters failed to reveal any report of a second Negro intruder. The sheriff's office made no formal investigation of the second case.

Scottsboro Case Negro Released As Woman Drops Attack Charge

By Sam New

Olen Montgomery, identified by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People at Detroit as one of the nine defendants in the Scottsboro case, was released there yesterday on a writ of habeas corpus after a Negro woman, who had him arrested several days ago, refused to sign a warrant charging him with criminally attacking her.

After granting the writ, Recorder's Judge C. E. Stein advised Montgomery to leave Detroit. He had been in jail since last Saturday.

According to the police, the Negro woman came to a precinct station and said Montgomery, who is 28 years old, had threatened her with a knife and then attacked her. In court she testified she did not desire to sign a warrant because of "unfavorable publicity."

Montgomery was one of three of the Scottsboro Negroes whose death sentences were reversed by the U. S. Supreme Court on the ground that they did not have adequate counsel. He left Alabama shortly after his case was later nol prossed. Five other Negroes in the case are now serving prison terms.

Trouble Follows Them Outside Of Bars

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. DEC 15 1940



The above are the four released Scottsboro boys a short while after their release from prison in Alabama following torture and trial for the alleged criminal assault of two white women. Seated, left, Willie Robinson, an ex-Atlantan, is presently in Brooklyn, N. Y., unemployed. Seated, right, Olin Montgomery, also an ex-Atlantan, who returned to New York last week after finding that his life wasn't safe and he could not enjoy peace of mind in the South. Standing, left, Eugene Williams is in Chicago, where he was last reported in custody of the late Dr. L. K. Williams. Standing, right, Roy Wright is learning to press clothes in New York.

6506

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

ALASKA

SAILORS TOLD:- 'YOU CAN'T LEAVE BOATS!'

Courier

Alleged Rape of Junau Woman Months Ago Causes Demonstration—Other Alaskan Ports Have Forgotten Incident.

6/15/40
Pittsburgh Pa.

BY FRED WOOD
(Exclusive to The Courier)

JUNAU, Alaska, June 13.—They gave a big demonstration in this Alaskan metropolis two weeks ago. It was not the kind of a demonstration that would follow the news of a gold strike, nor was it the usual kind that ushers in the salmon season. This demonstration was given especially for Negro sailors and in the midst of the demonstrators stalked the ghosts of four Negro youths serving fifty years each in the Washington State penitentiary, found guilty of raping a white woman, once a resident of this Alaskan port.

James Ganaway, Junius Foster, James Cage and Fred Alderson were sentenced by Justice Howard Findlay of Seattle, Wash., in April, on a charge of attacking Mrs. Adah Edmundson on the night of Jan. 17. Trial of the four youths lasted over a week, culminated in the fifty-year sentences and was completely forgotten.

But the trial, which became a memory when the iron gates at the state penitentiary closed behind the four youths, incited race-baiters to a near riot two weeks ago when the first boats bringing Negroes here since the trial, were met by crowds of roughnecks who defied the sailors to leave the boats. It was the first demonstration ever made here against the race and was quelled only after ships officers and local authorities talked at length with the crowd.

Junau is one of the principal cities in Alaska and the most important shipping port in the territory. Only a few Negroes live in the town but during the shipping and salmon season, many come here as sailors and a few work in the canneries. Local colored residents had no idea the demonstrations would be made with the arrival of the first U.S. boats. The SS. Yukon, they say, is the only boat that was not met by the demonstrators.

Race sailors returning from Ketchekan and other points north, said they had not met with any difficulty and had been able to land at all ports.

6487

LYNCHINGS- 1940 ARKANSAS
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BYNEGROES

HUNT STILL GOES ON FOR SLAYER OF GIRL

Negro Sought In Killing Sunday Near Augusta

Special to The Commercial Appeal

AUGUSTA, Ark., July 23.—Search for the club wielder who beat Ruby Montgomery, 16-year-old farm girl to death on a lonely rural road 13 miles from here Sunday night after assaulting her, Tuesday narrowed down to this section when the dead girl's youthful escort told officers he had seen the negro before the fatal night.

The young escort, Lucien Flannery, 14, who was walking home from church with the Montgomery girl, said definitely Tuesday that the attacker was a negro. He said he had seen the negro at least once but could not recall his name.

The youth was reported able to be up at his parents' home but to be suffering from severe headaches as the aftermath of being struck over the head with the heavy club used by the attacker. Sheriff Ed Ramsey who has been working on the case, said Tuesday the youth was beginning to tell a more lucid story.

State police are aiding the sheriff in his search.

Funeral services for the girl were held Tuesday morning at Gregory after the arrival of her father, George Montgomery, who was in Illinois seeking work at the time of the tragedy.

NEGRO HELD FOR ATTACK

Arrested In Death Of Arkansas Girl

AUGUSTA, Ark., Aug. 7.—(AP)—Acting Chief Deputy Sheriff Winfield Bialock announced Wednesday that John Mooney, about 27, negro, charged with criminal assault and murder on a 16-year-old McClelland farm girl two weeks ago, had been wounded and captured.

Bialock said the negro, for whose capture Sheriff E. T. Ramsey had offered $400 reward, was being held in an unannounced jail. He declined to make public any details of the capture, which he said took place during Tuesday night.

Miss Ruby Montgomery, 16, was attacked and left dying in a cornfield beside a lonely road the night of July 21 by a man who first [illegible] unconscious a 14-year-old neighbor boy with whom she was walking home from church. The girl died several hours after the attack without regaining consciousness.

NEGRO ADMITS SLAYING

Wounded, He is Held In Prison Death Cell For Safekeeping

AUGUSTA, Ark., Aug. 19.—Sheriff Ed Ramsey said Monday that John Monney, 27, negro, wounded and held for safe-keeping on a death cell at Tucker State Prison Farm, had confessed the slaying of Miss Ruby Montgomery, Woodruff County farm girl, on July 21.

The negro is under a murder charge, and the grand jury, meeting here Monday, was expected to consider the case.

Monney, a farm hand, was removed from this section after he had been shot by officers who reported he attempted to escape from a cabin in the river bottoms which they had surrounded following Miss Montgomery's death.

Miss Montgomery died after being assaulted in a cornfield while returning home from church.

ATTACKER BELIEVED HELD

Negro Arrested Here Charged With Assaults Near Marked Tree

MARKED TREE, Ark., Aug. 19.—In the arrest of Herman Davis, negro, by Memphis officers Friday three Marked Tree crimes are believed cleared up.

On April 27 Miss Genevia Corpier on returning home after shopping in town was attacked while on the Frisco Railroad walkway at 11 p.m.

Davis' wife Monday signed an affidavit that on that night her husband came home all bloody and his shirt almost ttorn off him.

On Friday morning, Aug. 9, when Ada Akins, 13, went to the pasture at her home across from a mill where Davis worked, she was assaulted and after a struggle and the help of some negroes who saw the attack, she escaped and returned to her home unharmed.

Officer Weems believes Davis is the negro who attacked a young white woman from Tulot in March near the county bridge across St. Francis River here.

NEGRO SENT TO PRISON

OCT 8 1940

Gets 42 Years On Charge Of Attempted Robbery

MARKED TREE, Ark., Oct. 7.—Pleading guilty to attempting to rob and kill Miss Genevia Corpier, daughter of a pioneer family of Marked Tree, last April, Herman Davis, negro, was sentenced by Judge Keck in Criminal Court last week to 42 years in the penitentiary. Another charge of an attempted assault on a 21-year-old white girl [illegible] weeks ago, at the suggestion of Prosecuting Attorney Brucy Ivy, was not tried, as Mr. Ivy explained by the holding up of this case, Davis would not be eligible for parole during the entire 42 years' sentence.

Mrs. Laura Wooten, young woman of near Fisher, was sentenced to five years in prison on her plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter and Judge Keck suspended the sentence pending her good behavior. She was charged with shooting her husband, Barney Wooten, while she was seated in her car on the streets of Fisher a few months ago.

6505

LYNCHING-1940 CONNECTICUT

RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

Rape Story Afro-American Fishy, Spell Baltimore, Md. Lawyers Say

By Staff Correspondence

DEC. 21 1940

NEW YORK — Smelling a frame-up somewhere, NAACP attorneys, headed by Thurgood Marshall, will defend Joseph Spell, 31, Greenwich, Conn., butler-chauffeur, accused of kidnaping his boss's wife while she was taking a bath.

Marshall and Sam Friedman, his Bridgeport associate, issued a statement after their first talk with Spell saying "we are convinced of the man's innocence."

Story Fantastic

They branded the alleged statement of 31 year-old Mrs. Strubing as "fantastic" and "unconvincing." The white woman is in a White Plains Hospital until the hearing, December 24.

Mrs. Strubing's story was that her husband was away December 10, the night Spell invaded her bathroom and kidnapped her while she was taking a shower.

Says Spell Had Knife

At the point of a knife, it was said, she was shoved into the bedroom and assaulted. Although it was 10 p.m., Spell is said to have made her dress and and assaulted her in the living room and the kitchen.

She said Spell demanded that she write a ransom note for $5000 to her husband. In the note, she said, she told her husband to get the money in small bills. She and the chauffeur-butler went off in her car and left the note on a pile of magazines in the living room. The police have not been able to find it, however.

Cops Flash Lights

They drove along an unfamiliar route and stopped in the dark in a wooded lane. Shortly, she said, a police car drove up, flashed a light on them, and the two policemen told them to drive on. She was bound at the time, Mrs. Strubing said, but the policemen did not notice her condition.

Feeling that he had been spotted, she said that Spell took her back to the house and forced her into his car, and drove off again. It was then around three in the morning, she said.

Untied Wrists

During the final ride with Spell, Mrs. Strubing is quoted as saying that she complained of the tightness of the bonds on her wrists. This was somewhere near route 22. Spell is alleged to have stopped the car, untied her and threw the ropes away.

He then drove to the Reservoir bridge, she said, and stopped. He pretended that something was wrong with his car. In a few minutes Mrs. Strubing said, Spell led her to the concrete rail over an inlet. He then pushed her over and she fell on a rock ledge in about four feet of water.

In the Water

Mrs. Strubing told the police further, that while she was in the water, Spell stood on the bank and threw rocks at her. After he had gone she swam around and climbed to the road where she hailed a truck, she said, which at daybreak turned her over to a State policeman.

After completing the story, Mrs. Strubing was taken to St. Agnes Hospital, White Plains.

Greenwich police found Spell sound asleep at the Strubing estate. He and Mrs. Spell, the Strubing cook, were both arrested and lodged in jail. Spell denied the white woman's charges.

Spell Playing Cards

Asked where he was during the night Spell told the police that he was playing cards at Garfield Todd's tavern in White Plains. Todd is said to have admitted seeing Spell in the place for a short while during the early morning.

Doubting the veracity of Mrs. Strubing's story, Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP's legal department, went to Greenwich to investigate the case and had Mrs. Spell released. He took her back to New York with him and arranged for her to stay at the YWCA.

Hearing December 24

Two preliminary hearings were continued when Mrs. Strubing failed to appear against the accused. A third date for the hearing was set Monday for December 24 when Assistant Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick told Judge Sisson that Mrs. Strubing could not appear before then. NAACP lawyers got the court to move Spell to the Bridgeport jail where he is more comfortable.

Afro American

When Spell was first arrested the FBI authorities entered the case because of the kidnap charge across the Connecticut-New York State line. The reservoir is in New York State. However, they withdrew from the case without comment. Local police here have not been able to find the alleged note which Mrs. Strubing said that she wrote and left on the magazines, nor have they been able to find the rope used in tying her up.

Baltimore Md.

No Confession

It was also learned from the authorities and the NAACP that Mr. Spell did not confess after 16 hours of grilling as was published in many daily papers. He did, however, give them a statement which has caused many of those in charge of the investigation to doubt the story of attack.

DEC 21 1940

Detectives Employed

A firm of New York detectives have been employed to investigate certain angles of the case for the NAACP, the AFRO learned. It was also revealed that on the night of the alleged attack, Mrs. Spell, the cook and wife of the accused, was urged to take an aspirin in whiskey and go to bed. Mrs. Spell objected, declaring it would make her drunk, and that she wouldn't be able to awake in the morning. The cook says she was told that it made no difference, she wouldn't have to get up in the morning.

Aspirin and Whiskey

Police checked Mrs. Spell's story and found the aspirin and the glass with the whiskey odor. The concotion caused Mrs. Spell to sleep soundly, and the only sound she heard during the entire night, she said, was barking of the dog towards morning, and the banging of the police at 7 o'clock.

Interviewed in the Greenwich Court House by an AFRO reporter, Mrs. Spell expressed absolute faith in her husband, and said that she knows he is innocent. She could give no reason, however, why her employer should accuse him of rape.

Mrs. Spell a Creole

Both Mr. and Mrs. Spell are natives of Lafayette, La. They have been living together since 1935 when he completed a six-year enlistment in the Field Artillery of the U.S. Army.

Mrs. Spell prior to then was in the St. Paul Convent. She is a graduate of Lincoln High, speaks French fluently, and also speaks her own Creole dialect. Mr. Spell went as far as the 5th grade, she said.

Worked for Army Men

Since 1935, they have worked together as domestics in the homes of Army officers at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and at West Point, New York. They went to West Point in 1938 and remained there in the employ of Col. Buekema until last spring. From there they went to Harrison, New York, where they worked in a private family until one month ago when they started to work for the Strubing family.

The NAACP announced that it was not satisfied on the following points in the story: (1) That there had been four assaults; (2) that Mrs. Strubing made no screams or outcry either in the house or when the police approached her car; (3) that the kidnap note was not found.

Although the F.B.I. was in this case almost in the first hour, it will be recalled that the F.B.I. refused to act in at least two kidnaping and lynching cases involving colored, one from Alabama to Florida (Claude Neal), and one from Tennessee to Mississippi (Ab Young).

6507

Hearing Today in Conn. 'Rape' Case Against Negro

Spell's Attorney Will Demand Prosecution Substantiate Charge or Action for Chauffeur's Release Will Be Taken

DEC 24 1940 (Special to the Daily Worker)

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 23.—The State of Connecticut will have to make some move in Town Court here tomorrow to back up its unsubstantiated "rape" charge against Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro chauffeur, so accused by his rich employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., as Spell appears for his third scheduled arraignment before Judge Lewis E. Sisson.

Defense Counsel Thurgood Marshall, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples, said today that "we will insist that they set out sufficient evidence to hold Spell or we will take legal measures to secure his release."

On two previous occasions arraignments had been set for Spell, but both times Assistant Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick informed Judge Sisson that the state was "not ready" to proceed, and both times the arraignment was postponed.

Marshall indicated that the defense would insist that Mrs. Strubing appear and back up her charge that Spell "criminally assaulted" her three or four times on the night of December 10 and took her on a wild ride through the countryside and pitched her in the Kensico reservoir.

So far the only account of what happened on that night is the one given by Mrs. Strubing and relayed to newspapermen in several different forms by different police officers. Interest in the case first centered in a statement signed by Spell after 15 hours of grilling by local detectives and FBI men which the prosecutor claimed was a "confession."

DENY "CONFESSION"

After talking to Spell on Dec. 14, the defense attorneys, Marshall and Samuel E. Friedman of Bridgeport, emphatically denied that Spell had signed a confession and declared that his statement was completely at variance with the story told by Mrs. Strubing.

Many other incongruous angles have developed in the case. One version of Mrs. Strubing's story mentioned a "ransom note" which Spell was alleged to have handed to her. This note has never been produced. She also declared that during the "ride" on the morning of December 11 highway police passed their parked car and looked in but "failed to notice" that she was "bound and gagged."

When police came to arrest Spell they found him at the Strubing home. He made no effort to escape and even police said he answered all questions readily, steadfastly denying his guilt, until the end of the 15 hours of grilling when he agreed to talk to Tunick "in private." It was than that the mysterious "statement" made its appearance, the contents of which have never been made public.

N. A. A. C. P. Investigates Sensational Rape Story; Says Story Is "Fantastic"

Victim Makes No Scream or Out Cry When Police Approached Her Car

Protest Sent To New York Daily News

DEC 28 1940

NEW YORK.—Branding as "fantastic and unconvincing" the story of Mrs. J. K. Strubing of fashionable Greenwich, Conn., that she was kidnaped and raped four times in one night by her colored butler-chauffeur, Joseph Spell, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent its special counsel, Thurgood Marshall, to Greenwich on December 12 to investigate the whole case.

Mrs. Strubing, who gave her age as 32, was found wandering on an automobile highway at Armonk, New York, near the Kensico reservoir early on the morning of December 11.

She told passing truck drivers that she had been kidnaped, assaulted and thrown into the reservoir by Spell. Her story was that she had returned from a dinner party on the night of Dec. 10 about 9:30 o'clock and had decided to take a shower bath. She said Spell had invaded her bedroom and bathroom, had forced her to leave the shower at the point of a knife, had assaulted her in the bedroom, living room and kitchen and had attempted to assault her in an automobile. She further stated that when she and Spell were parked in an automobile on a dark road, a passing police car flashed a light in their car and told Spell to move on.

Mrs. Strubing's husband, who is an executive of an advertising agency, was on a trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Spell, who was employed in the Strubing home as a maid, was upstairs asleep thru all the events related by Mrs. Strubing. Mrs. Spell was not feeling very well and had taken a drug to enable her to sleep.

The F. B. I. agents were in the case almost from the beginning on the grounds that Mrs. Strubing had been carried across the Connecticut-New York state line, even though no ransom note could be found. Although the F. B. I. was in this case almost in the first hour, it will be recalled that the F. B. I. refused to act in at least two kidnaping and lynching cases involving Negroes, one from Alabama to Florida (Claude Neal), and one from Tennessee to Mississippi (Ab Young).

The N. A. A. C. P. announced that it was not satisfied on the following points in the story: (1) That there had not been four assaults; (2) that Mrs. Strubing made no screams or outcry either in the house or when the police approached her car; (3) that the kidnap note was not found.

An effort is to be made on December 14 by the attorney of the Bridgeport, Conn., branch of the N. A. A. C. P. and by Mr. Marshall to have an interview with the defendant.

A sharp telegram of protest was sent to the New York Daily News by the N. A. A. C. P. for the front page display of December 11 showing a photograph of Mrs. Ctrubing in a bathing suit opposite a photograph of the butler in jail with the inscription (including pointing arrows) "Admits Attacking Society Matron."

SPELL ASSAULT CASE MAY COLLAPSE FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE

DEC 28 1940

NEW YORK—"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People intends to fight the Spell case to the limit not only because we are convinced that Joseph Spell is innocent, but because we know that winning freedom for this man means strengthening the security of thousands of colored domestics, chauffeurs, maids and butlers throughout the country, whose jobs are jeopardized because of this case."

This was the statement made by Thurgood Marshall, special N.A.A.C.P. counsel, in connection with the call by the association to citizens throughout the country to help raise $2,000 for the defense of the Greenwich, Conn., chauffeur who is accused by his wealthy white employer, Mrs. J. K. Strubing of criminally assaulting her four times before throwing her from her car into the Kensico reservoir, near Armonk, New York, early in the morning of December 11.

After two postponements of the case, a preliminary hearing was held in Greenwich Town Court, December 24. His principal accuser, Mrs. John T. Strubing, Jr., failed to appear to substantiate her charge that Spell had criminally assaulted her four times and had thrown her into the Kensico Reservoir near White Plains, N. Y.

The only witnesses were a truck driver who said he saw Mrs. Strubing alone on the highway about dawn on December 12, the physician who treated Mrs. Strubing a short time later and the policeman who arrested Spell and who said he found him at the Strubing home and that Spell had not offered the slightest resistance.

The courtroom had been cleared of spectators by the judge except those with subpoenas and those immediately interested in the case, Mrs. Spell reporters and a few others including the pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church of Greenwich.

Although the testimony at the preliminary hearing was largely "hearsay" and none of the witnesses had connected the defendant with the alleged crime, Spell was bound over to the Superior Court in $15,000.

Emphasizing the fact that Spell has at no time admitted the rape charge advanced by Mrs. Strubing, Marshall and Samuel Friedman, Bridgeport attorney summarized the result of their investigation. The probe reveals glaring contradictions in the statements made by Mrs. Strubing.

According to the N.A.A.C.P. investigation, the so-called "ransom" note has never been found.

The rope alleged to have been used to tie her has not been found. The spot where Mrs. Strubing is alleged to have been thrown in the reservoir is hard surface. There are no rocks or stones which could have been thrown at her. No explanation has been given of how Mrs. Strubing managed to get out of her coat in the water while her hands were tied. During the time the attack was supposed to have been made in Mrs. Strubing's home, Spell's wife was asleep on the next floor above and there was a dog asleep in the hall.

Although, according to her story, Spell is alleged to have driven Mrs. Strubing through the very center of the town of Greenwich, with the usual crowds on the street, policemen, including traffic policemen, and to have stopped for traffic lights, at no time did Mrs. Strubing call for help or assistance. No one has been able to find the policemen who were alleged to have looked into the automobile while Mrs. Strubing says she was there, and ordered Spell to "drive on." The alleged "confession" was not a confession at all but, rather, a statement of the whereabouts of Spell during the night in question. At no time has Spell admitted the charge of rape. After talking with Spell, N.A.A.C.P. atorneys are convinced that he is innocent of the charge of rape and is the victim of a campaign inspired by the press to convict him of a crime of which he is innocent.

AMERICA'S "FREE" PRESS

DEC 28 1940

One of the charges leveled against the dictatorships by the democracies is that newspapers of the former are "controlled," carry only such news as "follows the Party line" and distort and emphasize the news in accordance with the whims of the dictator, while the democratic press is fair, tolerant and free.

A few days ago America was given an opportunity to prove that her daily press was more free and fair than that of Germany, Russia or Italy, and she miserably failed.

A Connecticut matron of wealth and family charged that she was criminally assaulted and kidnaped by her Negro butler, and the news hit the front pages of every daily paper in the country.

The bald assertion was made that the man had committed the offense and had admitted it.

It is easy to imagine what effect this news had on the employers of Negro butlers all over the United States, and especially in the district where the alleged crime was committed.

Such crimes usually result in hundreds of Negroes being discharged and replaced by whites.

The daily press knows this well, but here was a chance to sell papers by whipping up racial hatred through parading the old Negro-rapist canard, so it shot the works, even to omitting the words "alleged," "asserted," etc.

Then the NAACP legal staff entered the case, hired private detectives and interrogated the accused man in his cell.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which had leaped into action at the first report of the alleged kidnaping (although it couldn't be found when mobs kidnaped Claude Neal and Ab Young and transported them across State lines for lynching), quietly slipped out.

The police became strangely disinterested when no ropes, kidnap note or marks of struggle could be found, and the district attorney's desire to immediately rush the case to trial suddenly cooled down.

The daily newspapers promptly lost interest. Many that had carried the initial story on their front pages with big streamer headlines, now carried nothing at all about it. Even the New York Daily News carried its last two-inch story on Page 39.

A fair and free press, knowing the injury done to the Negro by this lurid and damaging tale, would have sought in some way to remedy the evil done. At least its reporters would have been sent to aid the NAACP in getting to the truth.

But the "free" press lost interest, and you know why.

The Press Gives a Lesson In Lynching Negro Rights

DEC 28 1940

• Already the press has proclaimed Joseph Spell, Negro chauffeur in Greenwich, Conn., as "guilty" of the charge of "criminal assault." It didn't get a rope around his neck, but the lynch hysteria it created has laid the basis for the same sort of mob murder which the poll tax regimes accomplish in the deep South.

The capitalist newspapers have little enough scruples where workers are concerned. They are a thousand times more vicious where the Negro people are concerned. That goes for the courts and the police. Not only are individual Negroes persecuted, but the terror is extended to whole Negro communities where they are intimidated, thrown out of jobs and their citizenship rights wholly suspended.

The Daily Worker, alone has taken up the case and brought the truth to the people. A so-called "confession" tortured out of Spell (in violation of even a recent Supreme Court decision), disappears. Twice the arraignment of Spell has been postponed, although the prejudiced officials claim an open and shut case. Only the Daily Worker printed the statement of Spell's attorneys that they were entering the case "because the defendant is innocent, and secondly, because he is being persecuted because of his race or color."

At least two factors are involved: the citizenship rights of the Negro and the rottenness of ruling class "society." In such instances, there is no such thing as a fair trial for a Negro in the United States, unless the people—Negro and white—intervene. Labor and all fair-minded Americans should demand a fair trial, a thorough investigation and a halt to the lynch hysteria of the press and the state officials.

Don't Be Too Hasty

DEC 21 1940

In the stage production "Stevedore" a young white woman is attacked by her lover, but rather than expose him she screamed she had been attacked by a Negro. A lynch mob immediately went on the warpath, with the real attacker leading the pack. Every Negro in the com-

munity was terrorized.

In Greenwich, Conn., last week a Negro butler was acused by his employer of attacking her, forcing her to write a ransom note, and of tossing her into a reservoir. There are discrepancies in the white woman's story. So conflicting are her statements that the investigators have delayed the hearing while they make further and more searching inquiries.

It is easy for a community to become inflamed over an attack case. Especially is this true if the victim is a white woman and the accused a Negro. We don't know whether or not this is another case of "Stevedore." We do know nothing has, as yet, been proven against the accused, and that to prejudge the case would be unfair to all concerned.

In the interest of justice and fairplay we hope the police of Greenwich will get to the bottom of the case and let the chips fall where they may. Meanwhile, we hope there will be no wholesale dismissal of domestic workers because one person has been accused of misconduct

Defense Says No Link To Spell in 'Rape' Case

Court Denies Motion of Defense to Dismiss Charge

DEC 25 1940

By Ernest Moorer
(Daily Worker Staff Correspondent)

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 24.—Charging that the prosecution had "failed utterly" to connect Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro chauffeur with the alleged rape of his former employer, the wealthy Mrs. John T. Strubing, Jr., defense attorneys today moved to set aside the complaint—a motion which was denied by Judge William C. Strong in Greenwich Town Court.

In the preliminary hearing—the third one scheduled for Spell—his principal accuser, Mrs. Strubing again failed to appear to substantiate her charge that Spell raped her "three or four times" on the night and morning of Dec. 10 and 11 and threw her in the Kensico Reservoir near White Plains.

During the course of the hearing Judge Strong was himself forced to admit that the testimony was largely hearsay, a fact which was heatedly protested by defense counsel Samuel E. Friedman.

Defense attorneys also vigorously protested the fact that the prosecution made no effort to link Spell with the alleged crime during the 5-hour proceeding but depended instead on the version of a truck driver who said he saw Mrs. Strubing alone on the highway about dawn on the morning of Dec. 12, and upon the testimony of a physician who treated Mrs. Strubing a short time later.

REJECT DISMISSAL MOTION

The only other witness was the policeman who arrested Spell and who said he found him at the Strubing home "sitting in a chair" in the cellar and that he made no effort to escape.

Pointing out that none of these witnesses had in any way linked Spell with the "crime" except the physician who had relayed to the court Mrs. Strubing's accusation of Spell, and claiming that even this was "hearsay," Defense Attorney Friedman of Bridgeport moved for a dismissal of the complaint. The motion was overruled by Judge William C. Strong of the Greenwich Town Court.

Friedman had entered a formal plea of "not guilty" for his client.

"The only thing you have to hold him (Spell) at all on," the defense counsel argued, "is the hearsay statement of the doctor. It seems to me that the State has failed utterly to connect the defendant with this offense."

The physician, Dr. Francis Gilbert Zeiger, after a spirited protest from the defense attorney over the "hearsay" evidence, had been permitted to answer Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick's question, "Did Mrs. Strubing tell you the name of the man who raped her?" He

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Daily Worker

New York N.Y.

answer was: "She said Joseph Spell."

This was the only time during the entire testimony that Spell's name was used in connection with the charge. Since he treated Mrs. Strubing on the morning of the "crime," Dr. Zeiger has been retained by the Strubing family as her physician.

Defense Attorney Friedman also protested the failure of the prosecution to produce Mrs. Strubing in court. He said that the defense was handicapped because "Tunick had promised that he would have an opportunity to cross question her."

"I earnestly believe," he said, "that Mrs. Strubing has no intention of appearing in court." He asked for a continuance until Mrs. Strubing could be made to appear. This was also overruled by Judge Strong.

Another conspicuous gap in the prosecution's case appeared when Prosecutor Tunick failed to produce the "statement" which he claims Spell signed and which he was quoted as saying was tantamount to a confession. The contents of this document has never been published.

Throughout the proceeding Spell, clad in coat and trousers, but without a tie, sat calmly in court and appeared to be following the testimony closely, but with little emotion. Occasionally he glanced at his wife, Mrs. Virgus Clark Spell, who was among the few spectators in the courtroom. Mrs. Spell smiled encouragingly at his once during the physician's testimony.

The courtroom had been cleared of spectators by the Judge, over the prospect of defense attorneys Thurgood Marshall and Friedman, except for those with subpoenas and those immediately interested in the case, such as Mrs. Spell, plus reporters and one or two others, including the Negro minister of Bethel AME Church of Greenwich. This was done, it was said, out of "deference" to Mrs. Strubing, who failed to appear.

Other than the physician, the witnesses were James J. Restel of Great Barrington, Mass., the truck driver who said he came upon Mrs. Strubing wandering on the roadside near the Kenisco Reservoir and that she had "cuts and bruises" inside her legs, and police sergeant Robert H. Fitzroy of the Greenwich force, a plump, white-haired man who appeared to be about 65 years old and who seemed almost relieved to testify that Spell had offered "not the slightest resistance."

6509

LYNCHINGS - 1940
RAPE, ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

CONNECTICUT

G-Men Called In

Society Woman Attacked, Kidnaped, Hurled in Lake

DEC 12 1940

Held for 6 Hours, Victim Vainly Tries To Buy Man Off

By the Associated Press

Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 11.—Detective Sergt. John Teufel reported that Mrs. John K. Strubing, jr., 32-year-old society matron, had been assaulted in her home today by a man who later tossed her into Kensico Lake. She was taken to a White Plains, N. Y., hospital where her condition was described as not serious.

Police Chief Patrick Flanagan said Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had entered the case, seeking to determine whether the offense included kidnaping.

The Lake where Mrs. Strubing was found by a truck driver shortly after dawn is in New York State, nine miles from here.

Sergt. Teufel said a colored chauffeur-butler was being questioned in connection with the case.

Mrs. Strubing's husband, a New York advertising agency executive, was in Philadelphia at the time of the attack.

A hospital attendant quoted Mrs. Strubing as saying that during the more than six hours she was held captive, she tried every means possible to buy off her assailant from further attack.

The attendant related that Mrs. Strubing said she offered a check, but that was refused on the grounds that she probably would stop payment, but that a promissory note finally was accepted. She said she had already given the man her jewelry.



Associated Press WIREPHOTO.

MRS. JOHN K. STRUBING

Butler Confesses Attacking, Hurling Woman Into Water

Negro May Face Capital Charges As Kidnaper

DEC 12 1940

Special to the World-Telegram.

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 12.—A mild mannered Negro butler, accused of thrice assaulting his employer and then throwing her into a reservoir, broke down under 16 hours of questioning and made a full confession, Assistant Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick announced today.

The man, Joseph Spell, 31, was arraigned on a criminal assault charge before Judge Lewis E. Sisson in Town Court. Bail was set at $15,000 and the case was continued until Saturday.

Wife of Executive.

His victim, an attractive, 31-year-old blond society matron, is a member of a prominent Philadelphia family and wife of a New York advertising executive. The World-Telegram is withholding her name.

From a bed in St. Agnes' Hospital, White Plains, where she is recovering from shock, the woman related the story of eight hours of horror, which began about 9:30 p. m. Tuesday.

Spell, her chauffeur and butler, only recently hired, confronted her as she left her shower, she said.

"I offered him money," she said, "but before I could get it he drew out a large pocket knife, threw me on my bed and raped me."

Spell forced her to dress, she said, and then brought her downstairs to the living room, where he attacked her again, and made her write a ransom note for $5000. He made her get into her own car, drove around for some time and then returned, attacking her for the third time.

Then, abandoning the ransom plan, he took her to Kensico reservoir, near Armonk, N. Y., and threw her in. Her feet were bound and her heavy fur coat dragged her down. As she struggled to free herself, Spell stood on the bank hurling stones at her, she said.

"I decided to float as if I were dead, hoping to fool him into leaving," she said. "He went away and then flashed his flashlight over the water as I continued to float.

Story Corroborated.

"When I thought he had gone I climbed up the bank and hid in a clump of bushes, but he came back and flashed his light over the water again. Then he went away in the car."

Two truckmen discovered her and she was taken to the hospital. Police said Spell's confession corroborated her story "in all essentials."

Negro In Connecticut Jailed As Attacker Of Prominent Matron

Victim Bound, Thrown Into Reservoir; Accused Confesses, Police Charge

DEC 12 1940

GREENWICH, Conn.—(AP)—A Negro chauffeur-butler, who, Asst. Prosecutor Archibald H. Tunick said, confessed thrice assaulting a comely Greenwich society matron and later hurling her into a lonely reservoir, faced further grilling Thursday after arraignment on a charge of attack.

Tunick said that when the servant, Joseph Spell, 31, was presented in town court and his bail set he would ask for a continuance to check all angles of the case, including one of possible kidnaping which brought F. B. I. agents into the investigation.

Detective Sergt. Martin H. Nee, after visiting Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., 32, at a White Plains, N. Y., hospital, said she accused Spell of forcing her to write a $5,000 "ransom note," in addition to attacking her three times in her mansion Tuesday night, and several hours later throwing her with her feet bound into Kensico Reservoir, nine miles away in, Westchester County, New York.

Mrs. Strubing, Nee reported, related that Snell, threatening her with a knife, first attacked her in her bedroom after she emerged scantily clad from a shower bath.

After she was thrown into the reservoir, Nee said the woman told him, the butler stoned her until "I decided to float as if I were dead." She later struggled ashore, and was taken to the hospital by a truck driver and policeman.

Tunick said the butler's confession, made after 15 hours of continuous questioning, "duplicated in all essentials Mrs. Strubing's story."

Strubing, New York advertising man and one-time Princeton athlete, reached his wife's bedside Monday night after a hurried airplane trip from Cincinnati, where he had been on business. The hospital said her condition was not serious.

Mrs. Strubing was the former Eleanor Paul, of a prominent Philadelphia family. Her marriage was a highlight of the 1933 social season.

Arraignment of Negro Driver Set for Today

DEC 14 1940

(Special to the Daily Worker)

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 13. — Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro chauffeur, will be arraigned here tomorrow on a formal charge of "criminal assault" after being held incommunicado in the city jail here since Wednesday night, during which time the only version of the alleged crime which has been allowed to leak out is that told by his wealthy accuser and employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples was making an effort to have its attorney interview the prisoner — without success up to a late hour yesterday afternoon.

Spell was subjected to a gruelling cross examination by more than a dozen Greenwich detectives and FBI operatives for 15 hours after his arrest at the Strubing home Wednesday night. A strange version of this quiz was told by Assistant Prosecutor Archibald T. Tunick who said that at the end of 15 hours Spell suddenly announced that he was "ready to tell his story" in the presence of Tunick alone.

Tunick said all the detectives and FBI men filed out of the room and when he and Spell were alone the man made a "clean breast of it." The prosecutor, however, has refused to divulge the contents of the alleged confession.

PRODUCES NO "NOTE"

Meanwhile, many angles in the case were left conspicuously unexplained. One of the chief of these was why the man returned to the Strubing mansion, where he was arrested, after the alleged "crime."

According to the society woman's account she was attacked by Spell, about 9 P. M., Tuesday night in her bedroom. After that she said Spell "demanded ransom" and asked her to write him a check for $5,000. She mentioned a "ransom notice" that she was bound and gagged, which would seem to be an excuse to produce it. She said that Spell took her on a wild ride and dumped her in the Kensico Reservoir.

Another incongruous note in her account was that she said that some time in the course of this ride Spell parked the car by the side of a road and that detectives came along and inspected the car "but failed to

NEGRO BUTLER IS HELD ON WOMAN'S CHARGE

She Is Unable to Attend Court Hearing in Greenwich

DEC 2 5 1940

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 24—Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro, charged with a statutory offense against Mrs. James K. Strubing Jr., of Round Hill, was bound over to the Criminal Superior Court at Bridgeport by Judge William C. Strong today, after probable cause had been found to hold the accused for the higher court. Bail of $15,000 was continued. Mrs. Strubing was unable to appear against her former butler.

A motion was offered by the assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Archibald H. Tunick, that the public be barred, with the exception of reporters, was granted by Judge Strong, who also denied a request of Samuel Friedman of Bridgeport, counsel for Spell, that the case again be continued a fourth time, until such time as Mrs. Strubing was able to appear in court.

James J. Respel, Great Barrington, Mass., a truck driver, who said he had found Mrs. Strubing alongside the highway at the Kensico Reservoir on the morning of Dec. 11, was the first witness and told substantially the same story as that related by her to the police.

Dr. Francis G. Zeir of White Plains, who has been attending Mrs. Strubing, testified that he last saw her on Thursday and her present condition would not warrant her being in court for at least a month.

Sergeant Robert H. Fitzroy of the Greenwich police, the last witness, told of finding the butler in the Strubing home after the alleged crime, and of placing him under arrest.

J. Kenneth Bradley, chairman of the State Central Republican party, and Judge William J. Kelly of Stamford appeared as counsel for Mr. and Mrs. Strubing. Thurgood Marshall, special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Lucius L. Delany, attorney for the Westchester Committee Against Racial Discrimination, were in court.

Bulloch Negro Admits Attack On White Girl

DEC 2 2 1940

[Special to The Telegraph]

STATESBORO, Dec. 21. — A Negro boy was arrested here last night and carried to jail in a distant county after he confessed an attempted assault on a white girl and her mother.

Sheriff L. M. Mallard related this morning that according to the women, who live seven miles south of Statesboro, a Negro came to their door and the attack followed. He struck the mother to the ground and dragged the 16-year-old daughter into the bushes. Screams of the girl attracted the attention of her mother's brother, who lives 300 yards away.

The brother ran to the rescue and the Negro fled. The mother was badly bruised and clothes were torn from the girl.

Three hours after the attack Sheriff Mallard and deputies apprehended Rufus Carter, whom the girl had recognized and brought him to Statesboro, where he confessed. Only a few persons knew of the attack last night and officers met with no resistance.

NAACP TO DEFEND NEGRO MAN HELD IN ASSAULT CASE

—: BULLETIN :—

NEW YORK CITY—Attorneys for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will defend Joseph Spell, Greenwich, Conn., chauffeur-butler who is accused of assaulting Mrs. J. E. Strubing, wife of his employer, it was announced Saturday.

Thurgood Marshall, special counsel of the NAACP, will appear for Spell together with Samuel Friedman member of the legal staff of the Bridgeport, Conn., branch of the association.

DEC 21 1940

NEW YORK CITY—Branding as "fantastic and inconvincing" the story of Mrs. J. K. Strubing of fashionable Greenwich, Conn., that she was kidnaped and raped four times in one night by her colored butler-chauffeur, Joseph Spell, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People sent its special counsel, Thurgood Marshall, to Greenwich on December 12, to investigate the whole case.

Mrs. Strubing, who gave her age as 32, was found wandering on an automobile highway at Armonk, New York, near the Kensico reservior early on the morning of December 11.

She told passing truck drivers that she had been kidnaped, assaulted, and thrown into the reservior by Spell. Her story was that she had returned from a dinner party on the night of December 10, about 9:30 o'clock and had decided to take a shower bath.

She said, "Spell had invaded her bedroom and bathroom, had forced her to leave the shower at the point of a knife, had assaulted her in the bed room, living room, and kitchen and had attempted to assault her in an automobile. She further stated that when she and Spell were parked in an automobile on a dark road, a passing police car flashed a light in their car and told Spell to move on.

Mrs. Strubing's husband, who is and executive of an advertising agency, was on a trip to Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Spell, who was employed in the Strubing home as a maid, was upstairs asleep through all the events related by Mrs. Strubing. Mrs. Spell was not feeling very well and had taken a drug to enable her to sleep.

The F. B. I. agents were in the case almost from the beginning on the grounds that Mrs. Strubing had been carried across the Connecticut-New York state line, even though no ransom not could be found.

Although the F. B. I. was in this case almost in the first hour, it will be recalled that the F. B. I. refused to act in at least two kidnaping and lynching cases involving Negroes, one from Alabama to Florida (Claude Neal, and one from Tennessee to Mississippi, Ab Young.

The NAACP announced that it was not satisfied on the following points in the story: (1) That there had been four assaults; (2) that Mrs. Strubing made no screams or outcry either in the house or when the police approached her car; (3) that the kidnap note was not found.

A sharp telegam of protest was sent to the New York Daily News by the NAACP for the front page display of December 11, showing a photograph of Mrs. Strubing in a bathing suit opposite a photograph of the bulter in jail with the inscription (including pointing arrows) "Admits Attacking Society Matron."

A Cause That's Worthy a 1940

DEC 2 3

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has taken up the defense of Joseph Spell, Greenwich, Connecticut butler who is under arrest on a charge of having attacked his white employer, a social registerite of the smart New England—New York set. The association needs funds for this work.

Spell is in a precarious position. He has been linked intimately with Mrs. Strubin, and since such a relationship violates an established American code, the incident must be "proved a crime in order that the dignity of white womanhood shall not be lowered." Spell stands to be railroaded on some charge if one has to be trumped up.

It isn't always that the police and prosecutors connive to convict innocent people. Sometimes, though, pressure from outside sources intervenes and puts on the heat. There is every indication that the authorities in Connecticut are bent upon doing their duty, nothing more, nothing less. But since all available evidence disclosed to date fails to show Spell as a kidnapper, a rapist or an assailant of any sort, there may yet develop some kind of charge to prevent any stigma of immorality from being attached to the woman. Competent counsel can prevent this by studying carefully all the facts and preparing well their case. It will take money to do this; therefore, in the interest of justice, and in the defense of the other hundreds of domestic workers who could be affected by the Spell verdict, we urge public support of the N. A. A. C. P.'s drive to raise a defense fund.

Alleged Kiss Costs Richard Chase 15 Years

Afro-American
8-19-40
Baltimore, Md.

WASHINGTON

For allegedly kissing a white woman whom he accosted on a dark road, Richard Chase was sentenced to from five to fifteen years in the penitentiary, Tuesday.

A jury in District Court adjudged Chase guilty of assault with intent to rape Eula P. Hockett, white, of 2802 Thirtieth Street, Southeast, on July 7.

The accuser testified that she was attacked by the defendant en route home shortly after she alighted from a bus, in the vicinity of Naylors Road near Goodhope Road. She said the defendant seized her from behind, kissed her and caused her mouth to bleed profusely.

Did No Other Harm

The accuser said that the defendant remarked to her that he did not intend to do her any harm. She said he did not bother her otherwise than to caress her.

The defendant tesified that he was nowhere near the scene of the crime on the night of the alleged assault. He said he was at a beer garden in Southwest, and added that this was a case of mistaken identity.

Justice T. Alan Goldsborough, before whom Chase went on trial, immediately sentenced Chase.

Housebreaking Probe Brings Rape Charge

Washington Star
OCT 26 1940

Accused of criminally assaulting a married woman, Willie Hicks, 34, of the 600 block of K Street, Northwest, was indicted by the grand jury on Tuesday and held under $500 bond for court.

According to the complaint, early on October 20, officers received a radio call to get a report on a housebreaking near Eighth and M Streets, Northwest.

On arrival, they met Mrs. Eva Clarke, of the 1300 block of Eighth Street, Northwest, who allegedly told them that Hicks had broken down the door of her room and attacked her, cutting her on the neck and finger.

Washington Post

Hicks is said to have admitted being intimate with the woman on that occasion and several times previous, but denied breaking the door. Mrs. Clarke denied these statements.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

GEORGIA

6511

SPARTA'S ATTEMPT TO EXTRADITE YOUNG NEGRO FOUGHT IN GOTHAM

Widespread Response to Appeal for Aid Causes Decision's Postponement

NEW YORK, Jan. 11 (AP)—A month ago a children's court judge here appealed to outstanding attorneys of New York to interest themselves in the case of Willie Lee Butts, 14-year-old Negro boy, sought in Sparta, Ga., on charges of assault to commit rape.

Recognizing a widespread response to this appeal from attorneys as well as private citizens, Supreme Court Justice Nicholas M. McCrate today postponed a decision on extradition until tomorrow.

He said he was delaying his verdict because "counsel for the boy has been so vigorous" but added "we expect other states to send us our bad people and I believe we should extend the same courtesy to other states."

Justice Herbert A. O'Brien made the unusual appeal to the New York bar when young Butts was turned over to him as a "neglected child" after Georgia lost a previous attempt at extradition on charges of assault to commit murder. The boy was released on the grounds that he was not charged with a crime punishable by death.

Justice McCrate pointed out that the new extradition warrant signed by Gov. Herbert H. Lehman charged assault to commit rape, a crime punishable by death in Georgia "until a jury has passed on the case."

He explained that "it is only afterward that a jury may make a recommendation for mercy."

Young Butts came here in September with his mother, now employed as a domestic in Far Rockaway, L. I.

Cairo Negro Held On Assault Charge

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

CAIRO—Deputy Sheriff C. H. Strickland said Wednesday night that a Negro listed as George Poland, 32 years of age, is being held "in an undisclosed jail" charged with an attempted criminal assault upon a white woman at her farm Saturday night.

The officer said the case "has beeen kept so quiet that practically no one knows anything about it" and intimated that the Negro was lodged in jail in another county as a precautionary move.

The Negro was thwarted in his attempt, the officer stated, by the victim's father-in-law who was attracted by the woman's screams. The Negro, Deputy Strickland said, told him he was drinking at the time and knew nothing about the offense with which he is charged.

WOMEN ATTACKED, NEGRO IS HUNTED

Valdosta Matron, Daughter Beaten And Cut With Broken Milk Bottle

(Telegraph's Georgia News Service)

VALDOSTA—Police officers Sunday sought an unidentified Negro, who broke into the home of Mrs. Willie Martin here before dawn Sunday morning, attacked the elderly woman with a milk bottle as she lay in bed, and then seriously cut her daughter, Miss Mary Martin, about the face when he jabbed her with the broken bottle.

Officers said the alarm was sounded shortly before 3 o'clock, and that the Negro had fled when they arrived on the scene.

The two women were rushed to a local hospital for treatment. Both are suffering from painful wounds and shock.

Police said they were informed the women were asleep when the Negro, entering the house through a front porch window, launched the vicious attack on them, unprovoked.

MAN GIVEN 20-YEAR TERM IN ATTACK CASE

Adell Johnson Gets Maximum Sentence

Adell Johnson received the maximum sentence Tuesday in a conviction for assault with intent to criminally attack a young woman.

The 20-year term was meted Johnson since he had been tried previously in a similar felony offense. He had been involved in eight felony cases in a comparatively brief crime career, records indicated. Three of the cases involved alleged attacks on women. Johnson was sentenced by a Fulton superior judge.

Tried on two counts of robbery, Edgar Benn was meted a two-year prison term in Fulton Superior Court. Benn was accused of taking $1.45 from Joseph Colbert on February 17 and of taking $1.10 from Walter King on February 20.

Curtis Atkinson was found guilty of stabbing John Bates on November 26, 1939, receiving a public works term of 12 months and a probated jail term of six months. He had been indicted on a charge of assault with intent to murder Bates.

Frances Hightower received a twelve months' probated term following her conviction on a misdemeanor in connection with a $149.75 burglary from the dwelling place of F. C. Powell, on Washington Street.

Charge, Andrew Braceley alias Snooks was indicted on a robbery charge. He is accused of taking $3.50 by force from James Richardson on July 21.

Joe Gray was indicted on assault with intent to murder and illegal possession of a pistol charges growing out of the attack on Estelle on July 13.

Others named in "true" grand jury bills included Eddie Armour alias Eddie Harmon, Sam Loftin and Lee Posie Smith, burglary, and James Hardeman, operating an auto without the owner's consent.

Indict Two Men In Criminal Assault Case

Claude Davis and James Cromus were jointly indicted Tuesday by the Fulton grand jury on a charge of criminally assaulting a white woman in field off Thurmond and Mays streets July 22. Approximately eight persons had been arrested in connection with the attack.

Previously convicted on a similar

Young Woman Is Assaulted Sunday

NOV 25 1940

A young colored woman, 24, of an undisclosed address was assaulted at 7:30 Sunday night by a man unknown to her. She relates that she was walking on Jackson street and turned off to enter Old Wheat when a man ran up behind her with a gun.

He forced her into the open field thereby and kept her until 9 o'clock. He then brought her back onto the streets and fled.

He was described as being real dark of complexion and to have had a badly swollen right eye. His pants were of the grey wash variety and he wore black shoes and a black striped coat. Old Wheat is less than 150 freet from Auburn Avenue at the Jackson St. intersection.

6512

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE, ALLEGED ATTACK BY NEGROES

ILLINOIS

Pupil Accuses Teacher Of Rape; Suspended

The Plaindealer
Kansas City

Chicago, Sept. 27 (ANP) — Samuel R. H. Reed, 52, teacher in the Phillips Elementary school who is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a 15 year old pupil, was suspended Wednesday by the board of education—not on the criminal charge but because of his lack of teaching ability.

SEP 27 1940

Kansas

The delinquency charge was filed against Reed on July 8 by the mother of the 15 year old pupil, who is awaiting the birth of a child at the Juvenile Detention home. Despite this charge, he resumed teaching Sept. 3 when the fall school term opened. Social service workers called the office of Supt. William H. Johnson and were informed that Reed had a rating of "satisfactorp".

However, James L. McBride, white, principal at the elementary school, said that for the past two semesters Reed's work had been "unsatisfactory" but no action had been taken. The teacher is understood to have powerful political connections in his district.

On Wednesday, day of the suspension, Reed's case came up in domestic relations court where Judge Victor A Kula granted a change of venue on the delinquency charge but ordered him taken into custody when he was unable to post a new bond of $3.000.

Teacher Accused by Pupil On Rape Charge, Suspended

Associated Press
New York, N.Y.

CHICAGO—Samuel R. H. Reed, 52, teacher in the Phillips Elementary school who is charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, a 15 year old pupil, was suspended Wednesday by the board of education—not on the criminal charge but because of his lack of teaching ability.

OCT 5 1940

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OCT 5 1940

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6513

LYNCHINGS- 1940 MARYLAND
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

Escaped Convict Faces Maryland Attack Charge

A school bus driver chased an escaped colored convict into the arms of Prince Georges County police near Hall, Md., yesterday after posses of farmers and police had failed to find him in more than 24 hours.

The escaped convict, Alex Williams, was wanted on charges of beating a 22-year-old woman, mother of three children, and dragging her from her home into the nearby woods. She identified a photograph of the convict, who escaped from a road gang near Crownsville Wednesday, as her attacker.

William Hopkins, 27, son of former Hall Sheriff W. Curtis Hopkins, recognized him outside Hall and notified Ann Arundel and Prince Georges County police.

A school bus driver, Eugene Sweeney, saw Williams and chased him into some woods off Central avenue. Williams outran his pursuer, circled, and returned to the road just as Prince Georges County police officers Turner and Dent arrived.

LYNCHINGS*- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

MICHIGAN ~~ILLINOIS~~

6514

Rapist Sought After Attack on South Side Mother

Englewood police yesterday were seeking a colored man who forced a south side woman, mother of three children, into an alley at 58th street between Perry avenue and La Salle street, and raped her. The man told her he was carrying a revolver and would kill her if she cried for help.

Scottsboro Courier Boy' Nabbed For Attack

8-3-40 Pittsburgh, Pa.

By JOHN R. WILLIAMS

DETROIT, Aug. 1—Olen Montgomery, 26, one of the nine "Scottsboro boys," recently freed from prison in Alabama after one of the longest and perhaps one of the most sensational criminal trials ever held in this country, was arrested here early Saturday morning charged with criminal assault, the complaint being registered by a Mrs. Pauline Faulkner, 292 E. Palmer street.

Mrs. Faulkner declares that she and her husband have been kindly disposed towards the "Scottsboro boy," and allowed him to visit their home frequently, often providing food for him.

CAME WHEN HUSBAND HAD GONE TO WORK

She declares that Montgomery came to her home shortly after midnight after her husband, who works at night, had left and just about the time that she was preparing for bed. Her further statement is that Montgomery threatened her with a large knife and declared that he would kill her unless she submitted to his demands. Terror-stricken, she claims that she submitted and later Montgomery fell off to sleep at which time she telephoned the police station and repeated what had happened.

8-3-40

A police car was immediately sent to the Faulkner home and the officers found the man in bed asleep. He was placed under arrest, although he declared that he had been drinking. Detective Charles H. Wood, in charge of the case, reports that Montgomery stated: Pittsburgh Pa.

CLAIMS HE HAS NICE REPUTATION

"I have a very nice reputation and I'd sure hate to spoil it. I got a lot of friends who think a lot of me. I just made a mistake and got too drunk. I got to have some pleasure sometime."

To the writer Montgomery stated: "I went to Mrs. Faulkner's home last night just as I have previously done. I put fifty-five cents that I had with some money that she had and we bought some gin. I admit that I may have gotten drunk, but I don't admit having attacked her. I didn't have to attack her. I admit that the knife that the police found is my knife, but there is something more to all this than what the police pretend. Somebody is trying to frame me. That is all I've got to say just now."

DISCHARGED FROM JANITOR'S JOB

Montgomery also stated that he came to Detroit from New York about a year ago, and that he had been employed as a janitor at a large local apartment house until a few months ago, when the owner discharged him because a married couple was desired for the job. On the other hand, the apartment house owner declares that he discharged Montgomery because the latter's services were not satisfactory, and that he was in the habit of being drunk too often.

Mrs. Faulkner declares that she intends to prosecute Montgomery to the fullest extent of the law.

FREED IN 1937

It will be remembered that Montgomery, along with four others of the youths comprising the nine "Scottsboro boys," was originally freed from prison in 1937 after several sensational trials and a final successful appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

The local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., declares that it will make no attempt to serve Montgomery in his present difficulties.

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

MICHIGAN

6515

6515

Attack Charged To 'Scottsboro Youth'

DETROIT, 10-10 (ANP) — Olen Montgomery, one of the four Scottsboro youths acquitted three years ago of raping a white girl in Alabama, was arrested here Sunday, and accused of criminal attack on a colored woman.

The woman, whose name was withheld by police, ran to the precinct station screaming that Montgomery had attacked her while threatening her with a knife. Officers said she was only partly clad when she arrived at the station.

Returning to the apartment the woman and her husband shared with another couple, investigators into the case found Montgomery asleep with a four-inch knife clutched in his hand. He denied the woman's charge and also his identity.

The woman declared, however, that Montgomery was a friend of her and her husband and had been visiting them. She said that Montgomery, after drinking heavily for several hours, made several advances to her when her husband and the other couple went out. Montgomery finally broke through her locked bedroom door, she said, and threatened her life if she resisted further.

Montgomery, police said, was brought to Detroit in 1937 by the Scottsboro Defense committee in a move to raise funds to release five of the nine originally charged with attacking a white girl in a freight car. Since their sentence to death in the early 1930's, the Scottsboro case has gained national prominence. It has twice been taken to the United States Supreme Court.

RAPE
LYNCHING - 1940 MICHIGAN
RAPE ALLEGED ATTACK BY NEGROES

6516

Scottsboro Boy Held for Attack

DETROIT—Olen Montgomery, one of the nine Scottsboro youths sentenced to death in Alabama in the early 1930's, freed three years ago on the rape charge, was arrested here on Saturday on a charge of criminally attacking a colored woman. The unnamed woman ran to a precinct station screaming that Montgomery attacked her while threatening her with a knife. At the apartment, occupied by the woman and her husband, police said that they found Montgomery asleep with a knife by his side.



O. Montgomery

He denied the woman's charge and at first allegedly refused to admit his identity.

6517

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

MICHIGAN

GIRL, 15, ADMITS FAKING ATTEMPTED RAPE STORY TO ESCAPE A 'BEATING'

DETROIT, June 6—The age-old rape tale, which has resulted in the lynching of many Negroes in the South and caused serious trouble for numerous others in the North, was related to police here last week by a 15-year-old white girl, who later confessed she had concocted the story to escape a "licking."

Claiming that she had suffered a broken right wrist and other injuries after being forced into the woods near Eight Mile road and Dequindre avenue, Tuesday night by two Negroes, 15-year-old Florence Kielvasa, upon questioning by policewomen and policemen, admitted the story of the attempted rape was untrue.

She then confessed, police reports said, that she had been with Chester Gamblin, 19, white, at his home, and broke her wrist in jumping off a porch when she saw her mother searching for her.

According to the girl's first story, two men were riding in a black convertible coupe with a tan top and picked her up. One, she said, kept a knife on her while the other drove to the woods. In fighting off the attempted attack, she said, she suffered a broken wrist, contusions about the face and back, and had her clothing torn.

Then, she said, the men put her in their car and let her out, following her to see that she got home.

The driver of the car, she said, was about 23 or 24 years old; his companion 19 or 20. One was neatly dressed while the other wore overalls, she also said.

See: Lynchings-Legal Punishment for Rape. (Alabama)

Clipping-Scottsboro Boy Held After Detroit Attack. (Advertiser 7-28-40 Montgomery, Ala).

Scottsboro Boy Held After Detroit Attack

Olen Montgomery, 28-year-old Negro, identified by officials of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as one of nine defendants in the famous Scottsboro case, was arrested in Detroit, Mich., Saturday on a charge of criminally assaulting a 26-year-old Negro woman.

According to The Associated Press, Policewoman Sally Darden said Montgomery was arrested after the woman ran into a police station and said she had been attacked after Montgomery had threatened her with a knife.

Montgomery is said to have admitted that he was one of the group of Scottsboro Negroes whose death sentences were reversed following conviction of assault charges upon Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, two white girls, in Alabama in 1931, but he denied the charge on which he was arrested in Detroit.

Montgomery was tried, convicted and sentenced to death in the Scottsboro case with seven other Negroes. Their convictions were reversed by the United States Supreme Court on the ground that they had been tried without benefit of adequate counsel. Montgomery was never tried again, and in July 1937, he was released with Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, and Willie Robinson, when their cases were nol-prossed. He left immediately for the North and so far as is known here has never returned to Alabama.

Five other Negroes in the case, Haygood Patterson, Andry Wright, Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems and Ozie Powell, are now serving long terms in Kilby Prison. Four of them were convicted in a subsequent trial for the assault on the girls and Powell was convicted of an assault with intent to murder on Deputy Sheriff Ed Blalock at Decatur while the latter had him in custody on his way to the Decatur jail.

Scottsboro Boy Held After Detroit Attack

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OLEN MONTGOMERY RELEASED WHEN WOMAN FAILS TO PRESS CHARGE; GOES TO NEW YORK

DETROIT.—Olen Montgomery, the Scottsboro boy gained his freedom here last week when a 26-year-old married woman who made a complaint against him refused to sign a warrant charging him with criminal attack.

The woman took the witness stand in the courtroom of Judge Christopher E. Stein and said she did not want to sign the warrant because of the unfavorable publicity.

Montgomery was released on a writ of habeas corpus when the woman refused to sign. He was represented by Attorney Charles A. Roxborough, brother of Joe Louis' manager.

Montgomery said he was leaving for New York immediately after his dismissal.

"I have been wanting to leave here for some time," he said, "but I had ben told to stay."

Montgomery was a friend of the woman who made charges against him and often visited the apartment of the complainant and her husband.

Montgomery, seemingly a victim of "trumped-up" charges, was one of the nine innocent boys arrested near Scottsboro, Ala., in 1931, on charges of attacking two white girl hoboes on a freight train. Their innocence was proven in court when one of the girls, Ruby Bates, admitted that their charges against the Scottsboro boys were "framed" to cover up the fact that they were riding on the freight train with some white hoboes.

In 1937, four of the youngest boys were freed by the state of Alabama. Montgomery was one of them. The five others still are being held in Kirby prison in Montgomery, despite their proven innocence.

Montgomery came to Detroit about a year ago from New York and worked here as an apartment manager until he lost his job when his employer wanted a married couple for the position.

Scottsboro Boy Freed After Arrest

Detroit, Mich.—Olen Montgomery, 28, identified by officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People as one of the nine defendants in the celebrated Scottsboro case, was arrested last Saturday on a charge of criminally assulting a 26-year-old Negro woman.

He was freed Wednesday after a complaint refused to sign a warrant charging rape.

Policewoman Sally Darden said Montgomery was arrested when the woman ran into a police station and declared she had been attacked after Montgomery threatened her with a knife.

Montgomery admitted he was one of the group of Scottsboro youths whose death sentences were reversed or commuted following charges of assault upon two white girls in Alabama in 1932, but denied the charge on which he was arrested Saturday,

Scottsboro Boy Beats Rape Rap

DETROIT—Olen Montgomery, 28, one of four acquitted defendants in the Scottsboro case, was freed here on a writ of habeas corpus Wednesday after a woman, charging him with rape, refused to sign a warrant to that effect.

Montgomery was jailed Saturday when the woman ran to a police station, declaring he had threatened her with a knife and attacked her. He was identified by local officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was brought to Detroit in 1937 by the Scottsboro Defense committee in a move to raise funds to release five of the nine defendants originally charged with attacking a white girl in a freight car in Scottsboro, Ala.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

MISSISSIPPI

6518

GULF COAST OFFICERS SEEK NEGRO ATTACKER

Six Suspects Jailed At Gulfport In Assault Case

4-21-40

Special to The Commercial Appeal

GULFPORT, Miss., April 20.—A half dozen suspects were in jail here Saturday as Mississippi Coast officers sought a negro who allegedly attacked a Gulfport white woman here Friday night near the railway station.

Bloodhounds from Jackson were rushed to the scene and followed a trail to a local negro rooming house where four negro men were arrested. Two other suspects were picked up, but as yet none of those in custody has been identified as the attacker.

Although feeling is running high here, there have been no threats of mob violence.

6519

6519

WOMAN'S CHARGE OF ATTACK PROVES FALSE

BOY ACCUSED OF ASSAULT IS INNOCENT

Examination at Hospital Showed Widow, 70, Had Not Been Raped

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — An accusation by a white woman that she had been "raped by a Negro" was blown to bits Wednesday afternoon when Justice J. J. Daugherty recognized the complaint of Mrs. Lodema Nickels, as a "false alarm."

Stopping a preliminary hearing before it had ended, Justice Daugherty dismissed the charge of assault with intent to rape filed against Clarence Weaver, 21, 1223 West Twenty-fourth street, and saved the youth from further expense in defending himself against prosecution for a crime he did not commit.

Weaver had been in the county jail since May 14 when Mrs. Nickels, 70-year-old white widow, had him arrested for attacking and robbing her at her home, 2341 Fairmont street, located on the west side in a community populated mostly by Negroes and Mexicans.

At first Mrs. Nickels accused Weaver of assaulting her and then robbing her of 50 cents. On the witness stand Wednesday, she said that she gave the youth a half-dollar and a penny to "get out of my house and leave me alone."

On the stand, Mrs. Nickels said that Weaver came to her house and asked for a drink of water. She gave him the water outside her back door, she said, and then went inside the house. She said that Weaver followed her into the house and attacked her.

Interrupting the proceedings, Justice Daugherty asked Mrs. Nickels, "Were you examined at General hospital?" She answered, "Yes." The justice said, "Did you know that the doctors there said you had not been raped?" The woman said that the doctors had not told her anything.

"Defendant dismissed," said Justice Daugherty and Weaver walked out of the courtroom a free man.

The charge of robbery was dismissed against Weaver on a demurrer filed by his attorney, James D. Pouncey.

A great deal of publicity was given in the white press to the charges made by Mrs. Nickels last May that she had been attacked. Weaver was arrested in Arkansas and returned to Kansas City to face the charges.

Claim Youth 'Framed' In Assault Case

Martin Stewart, 19-year-old colored boy, was arrested early last Sunday morning in the 3900 block on Delmar avenue, while on the way to his home at 4143 rear Laclede avenue, and charged with assault to ravish, according to Stewart, a Mrs. Mildred Briggs (white), residing at 362 N. Taylor avenue. According to Stewart's statement he was on his way home from a meeting with some club friends of his and had walked over Cook avenue to Spring and South over Spring to Finney, out Finney to Vandeventer, and South on Vandeventer to Delmar, and had turned West on the way to his home in the 4100 block on Laclede, when he heard a woman screaming and crying for help. He saw a man run out of a gangway and run across the street and disappear between the houses on the North side of Delmar boulevard. Soon a white man came running up the street behind him, young Stewart said, and called for him to stop. Upon catching up with him Stewart said the man grabbed him by the shoulder and carried him back to a house on Vandeventer and upstairs, where he saw a woman lying on the bed who claimed to have been attacked.

Denies Charge

Stewart vigorously denied knowing the woman or having been near her at anytime and says that he was beaten by the detectives and police officers while in the room. The officers carried him to Central District and later applied for a warrant, which was issued, charging Stewart with attempted rape. Stewart is now in the hospital under treament.

According to the police report, Mrs. Briggs went to a tavern conducted by a man named Rook and his wife on Vandeventer avenue about 11 o'clock and stayed there for several hours until she went upstairs to the Rook home over the tavern. After remaining there for some time, she came down into the yard on the gangway back of the tavern and claims to have been dragged across the yard by a Negro, who attempted to ravish her. While she was screaming, her husband, Mr. Briggs, and Mr. and Mrs. Rook, according to police report, came up the front entrance to the house and saw her in the yard struggling with a man. Briggs claims to have gone down into the yard to assist his wife and that the man with whom she was struggling ran away crossing to the North side of Delmar boulevard.

Say Man Was White

According to Attorney Geo. L. Vaughn, who represents Stewart, the boy is an innocent victim and had nothing whatever to do with Mrs. Briggs' experience. Mr. Vaughn stated that he interviewed several of the white people living in the neighborhood and was told by them that Mrs. Briggs was not assaulted by a colored man. They said, stated Mr. Vaughn, that the man who struck her was a white man, weighing between 180 and 200 pounds; that this man grabbed Mrs. Briggs by the arms, near the ash pit on the alley running between Delmar and Washington avenues and, pinning her hands behind her, pushed Mrs. Briggs up the gangway toward Delmar avenue. These neighbors say that there was no struggle on the ground and no attempt to ravish Mrs. Briggs, but that it seemed to have been a lover's quarrel which the man was trying to make up. One of the neighbors, Mrs. Miller, said the woman was very much under the influence of intoxicating liquors, and, Attorney Vaughn stated, that all of them were positive that the man who had attacked Mrs. Briggs was a white man and not a Negro.

CAB DRIVER JAILED ON RAPE CHARGE

Fred Thomas, 24, of 1913 Lawrence street, was arrested and charged with rape, assault and battery and operating a taxicab with proper license, after he was identified by Learline Jeffries, 23, of 2154a Gaty avenue, as the person who had attempted to criminally attack her Sunday near the L and N freight house at the foot of Broadway street.

The woman told police that she hailed Thomas at the corner of 15th and Broadway believing that he was operating a taxi and asked to be taken home. He stated he would take another couple in the machine to their destination before he could take her. However, after the couple had been delivered to 12th and Division streets, Thomas is reported to have said that he had to go down town "for a few minutes" and continued driving down near the river where he made the attempt to attack her.

Miss Jeffries said she jumped out of the car and began running but was pursued and caught by Thomas who began to beat her. The latter drove off in his car when several railroad men came on the scene attracted by the cries of the woman. Thomas was apprehended later by police through the numbers on his automobile license. The woman was taken to St. Mary's hospital where she was treated for injuries of the face and head.

...uth Nabbed ... Hospital On ...ack Charge

NOV 30 1940

...n Ezekial Dennis, 21, of ...W. 122nd St., appeared at ...am Hospital to receive ...l treatment last Tuesday ...oon, he was placed under ... and charged with crim... ...ssault.

...the complaint, it was ...ed that Dennis was one ... youths who seized Car..., 240 W. 112th St., and ...her to a roof at 300 W. ... street where the alleged ...t took place. Young Den... ...peatedly denied the wo... ...ccusations.

...9 YEARS ... VICTIM IN ...RALS CASE

New York, N.Y.

... Said To Have ... Committed In ... Home

NOV 23 1940

...cused of committing a crim... ...assault on a 9-year-old Sta... Island girl, an elderly ... was held in $1,500 ... ...ing his arrest this ... The suspect identified ... as Louis Meyers, 84, ...mond Tr., Port Rich... Staten Island.

...ay to police Meyers at... ...the child in his home in ...presence of another little ...n November 7. The com... ...was filed by a representa... ...the Society for the Pre... ...of Cruelty to Children. ...child, whose identity was ...held because of her age, was ...ed under medical care be... ...of the experience. First re... ...she arrest created a stir ... neighborhood.

Williams Freed in Brooklyn Rape Frameup

Daily Worker

DEC 14 1940

New York N.Y.

Dismissal of the indictment and freedom for the youthful defendant in Brooklyn's John Williams "Scottsboro" case, was announced yesterday by the International Labor Defense, in a statement congratulating the organizations and individuals who aid the John Williams Defense and Attorney Samuel A. Neuburger, who was in charge of the legal battle.

The dismissal came yesterday as the result of a motion made by the young Negro Assistant District Attorney of Brooklyn, Clarence Wilson, on the grounds that not only had the Williams case been twice reversed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, but also that the District Attorney's office had no further or additional evidence.

Young Williams was freed from prison last June on his own recognizance when Wilson, upon consultation with Neuburger, urged this action upon Judge Garvin following the second reversal by the Appellate Division of the state court.

Originally indicted on March 31, 1939, on a charge of "rape" and assault in the second degree allegedly committed in Brooklyn on Dec. 3, 1938, Williams was convicted on both counts in June 1939. This "Scottsboro" decision and verdict was unanimously reversed by the higher courts both on the law and the facts. His second trial before Judge Peter Brancato in January 1940, was marked by vicious and open Negro baiting, especially on the part of the judge who kept reminding the jury **"Don't forget this is a white woman"** and ended in a verdict of guilty on a charge of **"attempted rape."**

"Final victory in the Williams case," the I.L.D statement said, "especially at this time, is a victory for vigorous mass defense which rallied progressive forces in the community where Williams lived and worked and won the support of the entire city. John Williams spent 17 months in prison—the infamous Raymond Street Jail in Brooklyn and Sing Sing—an innocent man. He was sentenced to 15 years. But the persistent, determined work of the defense committee and the able work of the defense attorneys headed by Mr. Samuel A. Neuburger, chairman of the I.L.D. legal staff, defeated the reactionary aims of the prosecution and won justice and freedom for its intended victims."

Two Beauticians 'Put Finger On Fiend Who Robbed, Raped Them

New York Age

New York, N.Y.

DEC 28 1940

Two beauticians "put the finger" on a Harlemite as the fiend who robbed and raped them at knifepoint. It was the testimony of the two women, Mamie Watson, 368 West 116th street, and Irene Porcher, 28, of 2450 Seventh avenue, which convicted the man known to the police as Roger Guillory, 28, of 74 West 134th street, of robbery on two counts and rape on one before Judge Schurman in General Sessions, Part III Friday. Guillory faces life imprisonment, being a fourth offender.

The Watson woman told police she was entering the premises at 215 West 147th street on the morning of July 16 in search of a woman to whom she had promised some work, when she was accosted by Guillory. The latter backed her up against the wall of the hallway and with a knife thrust dangerously near her ribs, forced her to turn over her pocketbook containing $1.11. With the knife still held against her, the woman alleges, he took her to the roof of the building where she was forced to submit to his unwelcome advances.

Irene Porcher, 28, 2450 Seventh avenue, was entering the building at 142 West 143rd street on the evening of November 18, she told police when Guillory cornered her. Her purse contained only $1.08 which he is said to have taken. Forcing Miss Porcher to the roof and across several houses he took her to a vacant apartment at 126 West 143rd street.

Generous traces of lipstick on his face left by his victim as she ferociously bit her would-be attacker paved the way for his identification and arrest two hours later by Detectives Flay, Hanley and Franz of the 32nd Squad.

CHARGED WITH ATTACK, THEFT

Journal American

New York, N.Y.

One Boy Confesses, Alleged Accomplice Claims Innocence

DEC 14 1940

An 18-year-old youth, accused of criminally assaulting a 41-year old married woman, was faced with a Felony Court hearing this week following his arrest Saturday afternoon. He is William Jones, of 12 West 134th St.

His accuser is Elizabeth Steward, 20 W. 133rd St. Mrs. Steward pointed Jones out to Patrolman Joseph Matthews at 133rd street and fifth Ave. Under questioning, she accused another boy of being implicated also.

Detectives Barts, Flay and Costello investigated and the arrest of Francis Rivers, 15, 22 West 134th St., followed. The Rivers youth accused the other lad of inducing him to help rob Mrs. Steward of 20 cents and forcing her into a hallway at 23 West 133rd street, where she was then attacked.

Young Rivers admitted his part in the alleged assault in the presence of detectives and a reporter, but Williams made a vehement denial.

NEW YORK

6521

Williams Case AgainReversed By High Court

New Trial Ordered in 'B'klyn Scottsboro' Frame-up

A definite set-back to the Jim-Crow forces of Brooklyn was made yesterday when the John Williams case, "the Brooklyn Scottsboro Case" was reversed for the second time by the Appelate Division and sent back to the courts for a new trial. This will be the third trial of the Negro youth who has been languishing in prison since December 1938 when he was picked up on a trumped up "rape" charge.

The Apellate Division charged that the "verdict was against the weight of the credible evidence." Therefore requiring a new trial.

This was second decision of the Appelate Division in this case when it first reversed the conviction of rape on appeal. Judge Peter J. Brancato, reduced the second sentence to from 5 to 10 years on the charge of attempt to rape.

The flimsy evidence and obvious Jim-Crow justice that is being rendered in this case forced a new trial. The entire community of Brooklyn has rallied behind the John William case. Civic, church and fraternal organizations Negro and white have rallied to the defense of the innocent man. Meetings and rallies have been held in Brooklyn to demonstrate the horrible housing and living conditions under which the Negro people of Brooklyn are forced to live.

'Rape' Verdict Changed Again By High Court

Judge Rules Prisoner Must Be Tried Again Or Charges Dropped

NEW YORK, May (CNA)—A definite setback to the jim-crow forces of Brooklyn occurred this week when the John Williams case, "the Brooklyn Scottsboro Case," was reversed for the second time by the Appellate Division and sent back to the lower courts for a new trial. This will be the third trial of the Brooklyn youth who has been languished in prison since December, 1938, when he was picked up on a trumped up charge of "raping" a white girl.

The Appellate Division ruled that the "verdict was against the weight of the credible evidence," and Williams will either have to be tried or the charges against him dismissed. It was the second time that the Appellate Division had reversed Williams' conviction of rape on appeal.

In that second trial, Judge Peter J. Brancato arbitrarily changed the original indictment on "rape" to a charge of attempt to rape, and sentenced Williams to from 5 to 10 years on the reduced charge.

NASSAU POLICE SEEK NEGRO IN RAPE, MURDER CHARGES

SEP 14 1940

More ferocious than the trail-scenters of Uncle Tom's Cabin were the bloodhounds which a furious Nassau County police department loosed through the area of the Rockaway Peninsula Monday in their relentless manhunt for a fugitive who slugged and assaulted a 63-year-old Cedarhurst woman and allegedly murdered a Nassau County police officer less than forty-eight hours later. The suspect was a Negro, police affirm.

Police authorities told the papers that the unknown man had slugged Mrs. Ida Nahon, 474 West Broadway, as she was walking her dog, dragged her into a lot and attacked her. In the struggle with Mrs. Nahon, the attacker lost a piece of his shirt. This was the clew given to the ferocious bloodhounds with which to "run down their man."

Picking up a trail, the animals led police a circuitous route to a dump at Peninsula boulevard and Rockaway terrace, about half a mile in a direct line from the Nahon house, where they lost the scent.

The Nahon attack occurred midnight Saturday in the driveway of her home, police said. Her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Platt, with whom she lives, had gone out. Apparently the attack fiend sneaked into the house as the young couple left. Mrs. Nahon's dog began to bark furiously and to bark loudly lunging for the side door. At this moment, Mrs. Nahon told police, a Negro came running out and leaped on her in the driveway.

SEP 14 1940

She was slugged over the head, seemingly with a sandbag and dragged into the adjoining lot and attacked. Before losing consciousness, she was able to see her assailant's face from the light coming through the kitchen window. The description she furnished police tallies with that furnished by Sergeant Robert Kirk of the Woodmere Precinct, who was with Patrolman Shaw when the latter was killed by a shotgun blast.

Shaw's murdered fired at him without warning from the interior of a stolen car parked on Railroad avenue which runs through the Woodmere Country Club. He fled in the darkness across the links as Sergeant Kirk emptied his revolver after him.

Shooting of Man While Being Quizzed In Police Station Causes Investigation

NOV 16 1940

Revelation of the shooting of Fred Trimmer, prisoner under arrest on a morals charge, in the West 152nd St. police station last Saturday afternoon while being questioned, precipitated an investigation by Commissioner Valentine's office this week. Trimmer, 26, a WPA worker at 365 West 126th St., is reported near death in the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital.

An official report blames the shooting on Detective Sandberg of the 152nd St. station, and declares that Sandberg shot Trimmer while the latter was trying to escape.

Disclosures that the victim was shot in the abdomen and not in the back is cited in some quarters as reflecting some doubt on the accuracy of the official report.

According to Sandberg, Trimmer, while being questioned concerning an alleged attack on a five-year-old girl, tried to take the detective's gun away. As the suspect seized the weapon, Sandberg reported, it went off.

OHIO

6522

SUPPOSE IT HAD BEEN IN GEORGIA

Fortunately for some Negro, Mrs. Katherine Price, a white woman of 27, employed at Thompson Products Company on Clarkwood Road, lives in Cleveland and not in some southern city. Having a complex of being assaulted, Mrs. Price caused the arrest of William Purcell, a colored man living on E. 88th Street, on such a charge. As there were no witnesses to the alleged assault, Purcell was convicted on the woman's testimony in the court of Judge Bell.

Because the police were not absolutely convinced that everything in the case was as charged by the woman, they held up the order sending the man to the workhouse.

On last Tuesday night this same Katherine Price told police a rather fantastic story of how a man had accosted her on Carnegie Avenue, near the Pennsylvania railroad tracks, and slugged and assaulted her. She was allegedly left naked for nearly an hour in near zero weather. Later she found her coat and then made her way to a gasoline station and reported the incident.

Investigation by the police soon revealed that the whole story of the woman was fabrication. She had deliberately undressed herself, scratched her face, and then reported the fantastic story. The police then immediately released Purcell from jail and held the white woman.

Had these incidents happened in the South, possibly two Negroes would have been lynched. Fortunately it happened in Cleveland, so, instead of lynching, the demented woman is jailed. There are many women, and all of them are not in the North, whose warped imaginations cause them to accuse innocent persons. We want to compliment the Cleveland police for not getting hysteria and starting a wild man hunt. We want to criticise the daily papers for not being fair enough to publish the full story, especially that part that exonerated an innocent Negro man. Such stories should be given just as much publicity when they are in our favor, as they are given when they are against us.—(Cleveland Call-Post.)

OKLAHOMA

6523

Watch THIS SPOT

Father Charged With Rape Of Young Daughter

Bewildered and misunderstanding court procedure caused Robert Moore, 58, Luther, to plead guilty to a charge of rape, disregarding the possibility of a 15 year sentence Wednesday for more severe punishment, the maximum of which is death in the electric chair.

Moore, who is charged with the rape of his 16-year-old daughter, had waived a preliminary hearing in justice court and had allegedly confessed his guilt to Wm. Brown, assistant county attorney, telling him he only begged mercy of the court.

However, when arraigned before Judge Ben Arnold in district court, Moore pleaded not guilty. No questioning could make the white-haired old man admit before the crowded room of spectators he had seduced his own daughter. He was then bound over for district court trial and taken back to his cell in the county jail.

As he was being led to his cell, Moore said he would like to go back and change his plea, after he was told his punishment could range from 25 years in prison to death in the electric chair.

The story behind Moore's arrest is indeed a sorry one. The man is the father of nine children and all live with him on a farm five miles from Luther. The facts told from information gathered from an investigation by deputies is that Moore apparently kept his family in slavery on the farm, as the trip to town made by his three daughters, 11, 13 and 16 years of age, Tuesday to the county attorney's office, was the first time they had seen a street car or buildings more than two stories high. The girls were reluctant to tell of the father's illicit acts with their sister once they were questioned by Brown.

But the facts showed that he had indulged in such relationship according to Atty. Brown. Other information disclosed he kept all visitors away from his home with his shot gun and had chased the mother from the farm on Tuesday after threatening her life, when she quarreled with him regarding his acts with the girl. Moore has a son 18 years of age who is in the second grade at school.

Records in the welfare department showed he had applied for aid and threatened one of the case workers in attempting to secure it. It is also said the mother and children worked hard on the farm and Moore would take the money to replenish his supply of shells for his shot gun to keep away intruders.

Two deputies went to Moore's home Tuesday and were met by the aged man with a shot gun. Seeing the determination of the officers to take him, he returned to his house, unarmed and surrendered to them.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

PENNSYLVANIA

6524

2 SUSPECTS HELD FOR ALLEGED RAPE

By WILDA R. TOWNSEND

Eighteen Negro men were rounded up by Camden City police in the section of the city known as "Centerville" last Friday night and held for investigation, after a young white woman was allegedly raped while enroute to her job early Friday morning.

The woman, whose name has not been revealed by the City detective bureau, is said to have positively identified one of the men, who according to detective bureau has confessed. His name, nor the names of the other men taken in the round-up of suspects have been divulged.

Of the 18 held, nine were released and absolved of the crime on Monday, and seven others are expected to be released by Wednesday morning, when a charge is expected to be made against the man who has allegedly confessed, and his accomplice.

According to the woman, she was dragged into an empty building, and attacked by the man, each holding her while the other assaulted her. She is said to have gone on to her job and reported the incident, where she was advised to go to a hospital. Police were later called.

no racial feeting was exhibited or engendered, also to insure the men of proper protection under the law."

The woman, Mrs. Frances Bobel, 27, whose husband is said to have died eight months ago, and who is the mother of two small children, is said to have identified the two men, out of the large number brought before her, as the ones who allegedly dragged her in an empty garage at 10th and Van Hook streets, about six o"clock in the morning, Friday, February 3rd. She was enroute to her job, and said the men each held her, while the other assaulted her, later robbing her of three dollars which was in her purse.

After a preliminary hearing in the City Police Court, the men were held for the Grand Jury. Last week the grand jury indicted them, and they will be formally tried before Judge Clifford A. Baldwin on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

County Prosecutor Samuel Orlando, in handing the indictment to Judge Baldwin said, "We are anxious to expedite this case," after which Judge Baldwin set the trial date.

The men are charged with highway robbery, assault and battery and rape

2 Said To Have Admitted Rape

Two Negro members of the Camden City Police Department led in the apprehension of two alleged rapists, who are said, by authorities in the City Detective Bureau, to have confessed to an attack on a young white womna, a widow, on last Friday morning, February 3rd.

Clarence Arthur, Camden's lone Negro detective, and John Houston, plainclothesman, are the sleuths who arrested Thomas A. Fletcher, 23, of 1707 S. Seventh street, and Lewis Williams, 24, of 723 Van Hook St. Gustave Pfliederer, William Stitt, and Josephine Mancino, all members of the City Police force, aided Houston and Arthur in rounding up about twenty-eight suspects of the alleged crime who were held on ":investigation" until Fletcher and Williams allegedly confessed to the crime.

City Commissioner Mary W. Kobus who heads the police department, was present at most of the questionings of the suspects, according to Detectives Arthur and John Houston, "to see that

6525

6525

Validity Of Attack Story Is Questioned

Ask Impartial Probe of Claims; Workers Jailed

Special to Journal and Guide

TRENTON, N. J.—Residents of Trenton are figuratively boiling up over the current mass roundup of colored migrant farmhands by Pennsylvania and New Jersey State Police. This action followed a mysterious attack on a white woman on a lonely country road in Oxford Valley, Pa. last week.

Colored citizens, skeptical of the woman's claims, are demanding a full and impartial investigation and a postponement of the roundup until then. Several protests have been sent to City Hall by the NAACP and other civic agencies.

The supposed attack occured on Tyburn Road, near Oxford Valley in Bucks County, Pa. According to the claims of the "victim," Mrs. Clare Tramotti, a 19-year old Italian woman, of 1532 Princeton Ave., Trenton, a Negro surprised her as she was seated with her husband. Joseph able to give a satisfactory account of their whereabouts on the night of the alleged attack.

One of the protests sent to City Hall expressed the opinion that the Tramotti woman was slashed by someone in her family who had surprised her with her husband. When the marriage of the girl was made known to this hypothetical relative, it is thought by local citizens that she was advised to throw the blame on the ever convenient "Negro attacker."

Mrs. Tramotti is confined at St. Francis Hospital in this city and is reported to be recovering.

Tramotti, on a plot of grass adjacent to the highway.

LEAVES WIFE

Tramotti suposedly ran for help, leaving his wife to the mercy of the attacker, who is said to have slashed her about the face and body. The motive has remained a mystery to State Police because the woman has not admitted being robbed nor raped.

An investigation has brought out the fact that the marriage of the Tramottis some months ago was not disclosed to the girls' parents until the time of the alleged attack. When "surprised," they were holding one of their frequent secret trysts, local citizens point out.

A further investigation of the woman's story has been promised, but in the meantime the roundup is continuing and a lot of migrants, here for the potato picking season, have been sent to jail. Isaac Jones received a 30 day sentence in the workhouse on charges of vagrancy. Willie Butler, Willie Gordon, Lou Blackwell and Willie Walters were sentenced to ten days each, all on the same charge.

LYNCHING-1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

SOUTH CAROLINA

6526

Chicago Tribune

Negro Citizens Jail Offender

DEC 15 1940

GREENVILLE, S. C., Dec. 2—Showing a respect for law and order that might well be emulated by other southern groups, six irate colored men dragged Lewis Surls, local Negro, to the city jail Sunday night with the demand that he be taken into custody on a charge of rape.

Chicago Daily

Surls was apprehended shortly after he had criminally attacked a ten year old colored girl. The group who captured him instead of following the usual procedure in the South for such crimes carried him to jail. The mother of the child signed a warrant before a local magistrate charging Surls with rape.

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

TENNESSEE

6527

OFFICERS SEEK NEGRO IN ASSAULT ATTEMPT

SEP 19 1940

Young Housewife Complains Of Bellboy's Actions

A nebro bellboy was sought by police yesterday for an alleged attempt to criminally assault a young Memphis housewife in Overton Park early yesterday morning.

The accusation was made by the mother of two small children. She said the negro agreed to drive her car home from the Peabody early yesterday but turned into Overton Park and stopped.

Police said the woman, who had been drinking, told them she went to the hotel with her husband Tuesday night and decided to go home alone after becoming separated from him.

The car, she told them, was parked at the rear of the hotel, where she found the negro waiting. He told her he was off duty and agreed to drive her car as far as Poplar and Avalon, where he lived, police quoted her as saying.

She told officers she became alarmed when the negro drove past Avalon and turned into Overton Park. She said he stopped the car near the greenhouse, clamped his hand over her mouth and dragged her into a clump of shrubbery where he attempted to assault her.

Her screams attracted the attention of two motorists, Marvin Hill, 1050 Philadelphia, and R. C. Rayburn, 151 Market, who went to her rescue. The negro fled.

She was treated for minor cuts and bruises at John Gaston Hospital.

LAKE COUNTY NEGRO IS GIVEN 99 YEARS

Convicted At Dresden Of Criminal Assault

DEC 12 1940

DRESDEN, Tenn., Dec. 11.—Ashley Cole, Lake County negro, was sentenced to 99 years in prison here Wednesday on conviction of a criminal assault.

The jury returned the guilty verdict within an hour after getting the case Wednesday morning.

Cole, carefully guarded by staee highway patrolmen, the sheriffs of Lake and Weakley Counties and their deputies, reeclved the sentence with stolid indifference.

He was charged with the rape of a 19-year-old Ridgley, Tenn.. woman several weeks ago. On the stand Tuesday the negro denied the charge and claimed he was in another section of the county shooting dice at the time of the crime.

The trial was transferred here on a change of venue because of high feeling in Lake County.

ATTRACTIVE MAIDEN ASSAULTED AND ROBBED BY GIANT NEGROES IN REAR OF EMANCIPATION PARK SATURDAY

Labor-News
10/28/40
Houston, Texas

One of the most revolting crimes since the wave of the recent taxi driver murders rocked the city this week, when a frail maiden in Third Ward was beaten and criminally assaulted and robbed by two Negroes Saturday night.

According to Lionel Henry, 19-year-old boy, who lives at 4302 Bastrop, he was escorting Miss Dorothy Mae Conners, 18, to her home at 2611 Dennis late Saturday night.

They had attended the wedding reception of a friend. When they reached Elgin and Rosaile they were approached by two men who stepped out of the darkness and stopped them.

Taken To Wooded Section

According to Henry's statement one of the men had a long knife and the other had a pistol. They forced the couple to accompany them to the wooded area behind Emancipation Park on Bastrop.

While one of the men took Henry off a few paces, the other forced the almost hysterical girl to lie on the ground, where she was violated. When she screamed, she was slapped into insensibility and remembered little that happened, except when she regain consciousness the other member of the hijacking duet was ravishing her.

Robbed After Assault

After finishing their dastardly deed, the men took all of Henry's money and the girl's wrist watch and sent them on their way. The girl was so weak from her experience that Henry had to carry her home in his arms and she gathered up the shred of clothing that the rapists had torn from her body to hide her nudity. She was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

A description of the two men was furnished the police. Both were said to be well over six feet in height, and heavily built. One was light brown skin, and the other was dark, according to Henry.

BLACKS ASSAULT YOUNG WOMAN ON SCHOOL CAMPUS

Negro Labor News
8-2-40
Houston, Texas

Houston's rape total took another climb last Mnday night when two young Negro men allegedly assaulted Miss Annie Mae McDonald, 18, 3452 McGowan. The act took place on Douglass Schol campus according to the young lady when she and her boy friend, Eddie Moran, 21, 3431 McGowan were returning from the theatre.

They decided to walk across the school ground where they were accosted by a tall Negro man with a .45 caliber pistol. He commanded the couple to go back of the school building where they met another Negro man, who took the McDonald girl and forced her against her wishes to submit to his savage desires while his accomplice was holding Moran at bay and robbing him of $2.05.

When the Negro, they met on the campus brought the girl back, he took the gun and trained it on her escort while his accomplice also assaulted the helpless young woman.

After committing their destardly act the two men forced the couple to leave. Description of the duo was furnished officers by the couple. It is believed that the men may be the same ones that attacked a young Negri girl back of the Emancipation Park several weeks ago. No arrests have been made but the police are working on the case to smash the ring of vultures who are ravishing the innocent fairer sex.

COUPLE VICTIMS OF NEGRO MEN WHO ASSAULT AND ROB

Negro Labor News
8-24-40
Houston, Texas

Houston's latest crime wave of rape assaults took another leap last Sunday night when two unidentified Negro men criminally assaulted Miss Rosa Lee Moore, 21-year-old Negro woman of 3402 Hadley and robbed both Miss Moore and her escort, Abraham Burrells, 2611 McGowan.

Believed Same Couple

It is believed by officers that the pair are the same Negro men who several weeks ago raped a young girl behind the Emancipation Park, and last week overpowered a young woman on the campus of Douglass Elementary School.

On both of these occasion the male company of the victims were robbed and held at bay at the point of a gun by each man while the other took unfair advantage of the girls.

Descriptions furnished officers by Miss Moore tally with those given the police last week by Miss Annie Mae McDonald, 18-year-old girl of 3452 McGowan, who was a victim of the unmanly thugs last week.

One of the men sought by the officers is about 6 feet tall and weights 145 pounds. His complexion is dark, his clothing ragged and dirty. His accomplice is about 5 feet, 7 inches in height and weighs about 145 pounds, his complexion is light and he is shabbily dressed.

On Way Home

Miss Moore told officers that she and Burrells left the El Dorado Ballroom at 12:15 last Sunday night to walk home. When they reached Roberts between McIlhenny and Hadley, a tall Negro walked up to them with a gun and told them to "stick them up" and to keep walking which they did.

Upon reaching Hadley and Roberts they were met by a short Negro who joined them. The tall Negro took from Miss Moore's purse $2.45. They were then compelled to walk to a church edifice at Trully and Velasco The short man was told to search Burrells by the taller one who seemed to have been the boss of the couple.

Nothing of consequence was found on Burrell who was ordered then to sit on the rear steps of the church by the taller man while the short man took his lady friend on the east side of the church to savagely assault her. Her returned with the woman and relieved his accomplice of the gun that was being used to keep Burrells from defending Miss Moore.

The tall Negro then took the woman to the same spot where he committed the same offense. After finishing, the two culprits followed the couple home and refused to allow Burrells to accompany Miss Moore into the house running him away at the point of the gun. One of the men inquired about the way to Galveston before departing.

Charges of robbery by firearms and rape wil be filed on the duo when they are apprehended.

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LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACK BY NEGROES

VIRGINIA

Four Youths Deny Rape Charge Of White Waitress

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

RICHMOND, Va.—Preliminary hearings for four colored youths charged with criminal assault upon a 26-year-old white waitress will be heard in Richmond Police Court on September 25. The hearing was continued when called Saturday morning.

The youths, who were arrested on Thursday of last week twelve hours after the young woan reported that she had been attacked by four men on a secluded spot on Second Street Road, were held in $2,500 bond each.

They gave their nameas as: William Fox, 25, of North Harrison Street; Ralph Minor, 24, of West Clay Street; Ernest McCray, 25, of West Duval Street, and Louis Johnson, 20, of Boyd Street.

SEP 24 1940

The arrests were made by Detective Sergeants C. L. Brown and E. A. Kelly. Investigating officers were quoted as saying that the victim of the alleged assault identified Fox and McCray, but was not certain about the other two youths.

According to the young woman's story she went automobile riding with a white man and had started to walk home to avoid his advances when the four youths, riding in an old coupe whose door would'nt open, overtook her. She accepted their offer to take her home, she said, but instead of taking her home she was forced to accompany them to the secluded spot where she was attacked by each of them and then deserted.

She told investigating officers that she made her way to a telephone, called a taxi and enroute home saw an officer to whom she reported the attack.

Questioned at police headquarters, the accused youths admitted giving the young woman a ride, but said that she refused to get out of the car when they neared her home on West Grace Street. They denied having committed any attack.

DENY ATTACK CHARGES

The accused youths insisted that they did not attack the girl. They were driving home from the Virginia Steel Mills, where they are employed they stated, when they saw the girl waving them down. They drove up to her and stopped, and she asked them to bring her in town. They answered that they could not do so, and told her that they were colored. She insisted, according to their story, telling them that she wanted to get to town. They stopped at the place where she said she lived, near Lombardy and Broad Streets, they said, to let her out.

SEP 24 1940

The white girl refused to get out the boys stated. They then drove on, stopping again on West Moore Street, where the girl again refused to get out.

OFFERED A DOLLAR

Driving down Second Street Road, they said, they stopped the car and got out. One of them stated that he offered her a dollar to entice her out of the car, while a second turned the car around. As soon as the girl was out of the car, the boys claim that they jumped in the car and drove off, leaving her standing in the road.

The four young men declared that the girl showed them bruises on her arm, and told them that her former companion had put her out of his car. The men stated that the girl appeared to have been drinking.

They are being represented by Attorneys John Hirschberg and Cecil Harris.

Four Are Indicted On Woman's Charges

OCT 8 1940

Washington Post

Richmond, Va., Oct. 7 (AP).—Four colored men were indicted by a hustings court grand jury today on charges of criminally attacking a 26-year-old white waitress here the night of last September 12.

True bills were returned against Ernest McCray, 25; William C. Fox, 25; Ralph Minor, 24, and Louis Johnson, all of Richmond.

Washington Star

The attack was alleged to have taken place on a lonely part of the Richmond Henrico turnpike after the young woman had fled an automobile to escape the advances of a white man. Police quoted her as saying she accepted the offer of a "lift" from the colored men.

Four Men Deny Attack Charge

White Waitress Admits She Was Molested by White Man

SEP 28 1940

RICHMOND—Faced with a barrage of daily newspaper publicity which has created widespread sentiment for the alleged victim, two of four men accused of attacking a young white woman this week awaited a police court hearing on September 25 and stoutly maintained all are innocent.

They were accused by Mrs. Lucille Hartless, 26, who gave her address as 2517 W. Grace Street. On Saturday she said that she was required to move because of the notoriety she gained in the case.

Two of the men insisted that the woman apparently was attacked and thrown from an auto by a married white man, and that they now find themselves in possible danger of the electric chair or long prison sentences because they played the roles of Good Samaritans.

Afro American

Went on Late Ride

The woman, who was a waitress, told police that she went riding after midnight on September 11 with Jimmy Williamson, white, and that he insisted upon love-making. When she refused, she said, she was put out of his car and started to walk back to Richmond from a point on Westwood Avenue.

She said that the four—Ernest McCray, 25, of 431 W. Duval Street, William Fox, 25, of 1127 N. Harrison Street, Ralph Minor, 24, of 907 W. Clay Street, and Lewis Johnson, 20, of 1208 Boyd Street—offered to take her to her home on W. Grace Street and she accepted the invitation.

Baltimore Sun

She charged that they took her to Henrico Turnpike near Dove Street, and said that all attacked her.

Tells of Fleeing

According to her story, after the attacks three of the men got in the car and drove off, while a fourth tried to cling to her. She said that she broke away and fled to Monteiro Avenue, where she telephoned for a taxicab.

She said that she asked the taxidriver to stop at Meadow and Broad Streets when she saw Patrolman C. E. Fagan, who took her to headquarters.

SEP 28 1940

On the other hand, Fox and Johnson told an AFRO reporter that the woman emerged from the bushes at the roadside and called upon McCray, who was driving, to halt their car. The three had just left a steel plant in the Westwood section, where they were employed.

Story Denied

The two declared that they were against giving the woman a ride, but agreed only because she begged them to do so. They said that one of her eyes was blacked, and that her hair and clothing were disheveled, and that it was apparent that she had been mistreated in some manner.

According to their story, the woman first said that she wanted them to take her to a restaurant where she worked, and then said that she wanted them to take her home. She directed them to two wrong addresses, the men said, and refused to get out of the car.

Say She Got $1

When the car got to Broad and Lombardy, they said, all four insisted that the woman would have to leave, and stated that she asked them for money. They said that McCray told her to get out and that he would give her a dollar. When she took the money, they declared, the four jumped into the car and drove away.

At no time, they said, did any member of the group make any advance toward her.

Allege Accusations

Acting Captain Dan W. Duling, Sergeant L. H. Wilson and Lieutenant O. D. Gaston said that each man denied attacking the girl, but blamed the three others. All had mud on the knees of their trousers, police said.

On this point, Fox and Minor said that all were innocent and that they had been told individually by police that others had accused them. The two stated that police beat them.

Baltimore Afro American

They said that any mud on their clothing probably came from shooting dice. They also explained that they were wearing soiled working clothing. Samples of mud from the alleged attack spot and clothing have been sent to a Federal laboratory.

McCray and Minor refused to make any statement to a reporter on advice of Councilmen John Hirschberg and Cecil Harris, who have been engaged to defend them.

Tests Ordered

Police said that one of the suspects admitted having syphilis, and that another said that he was infected with gonorrhea. Tests were ordered to determine whether it was true, and were made on Monday. Several days will lapse before any report is made.

SEP 28 1940

The four men were linked with the case by Detective Sergeants C. L. Brown and E. A. Kelley, whose only description of the car was that it was an old black, rumble-seat coupe with a right door that could not be opened.

They suspected that the men might have been returning from work early on Thursday morning, and learned that eight colored men were employed at a steel plant in the Westwood section

...and would be expected back at work at 4:30 p.m.

Detailed Description

The officers then went to the plant and saw the four drive up about that time. The car fitted the description completely.

Police said that the woman identified Fox and McCray and said that she believed that the others also were guilty.

Daily newspapers gave the case wide attention, and one has received donations of cash, promise of a special prosecutor, and food, shelter and medical attention for the woman.

Tells of Ousting

She appealed to police for aid on Saturday, saying that she had lost her room and her job because of the publicity.

Meanwhile, many Richmonders were critical over the fact that the white man in the case has not been arrested. They have pointed out that Williamson admitted making advances to the woman and would like to have explored every possibility that he attacked and beat her.

Another Attack Case

Meanwhile, another alleged attack, that of a 16-year-old girl in Fulton last week, gained but slight notice. Fred Washington, 31, of 1110 State Street, was arrested in the case and held for a hearing in juvenile court.

Washington denied that he attacked the girl, and said that they had been friendly for a long time.

Virginia Youth Framed On Rape Charge By Police

DEC 14 1940

WAYNESBORO, Va. — Joseph Mickens, 15-year-old Negro youth who was about to be railroaded to prison and execution on the charge of having raped a white woman, Mrs. Clarice S. Pye, here November 24, after having reputedly "confessed" to the crime following "questioning" by at least ten police officials, will be represented by Oliver W. Hill, N. A. A. C. P. attorney, when his case comes to trail in nearby Staunton on December 19.

According to Hill, who interviewed Mickens at the Roanoke jail, where he is confined pending his trial, the youth, one of eleven children, who quit school in the fifth grade, was picked up Monday, November 25, by local police on suspicion that he had broken into two warehouses located near his home here.

He was questioned concerning these robberies and also about the criminal assault on Mrs. Pye, by the Waynesboro chief of police and other local officials. The police chief, convinced of Mickens' innocence of all these charges, was about to release him when City Manager Vass insisted that the youth be held for failure to pay a traffic fine.

Youth, 15, to Face Rape Trial On December 19

DEC 14 1940

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QUESTIONED BY POLICE

That night, according to Mickens some ten police officials, including the police chief of Staunton, questioned him "at length," and later gave out the story that he had confessed. Denying the confession, the youth said the police officials took turns questioning him until the whole procedure became blurred in his mind. Despite the fact that Mickens is out on probation because of some incident involving a bicycle over a year ago, his reputation in the community is considered good. He and his family have lived in Waynesboro for many years.

What is regarded as a definite attempt on the part of a local paper to "try" Mickens, and find him "guilty" before his case comes to trial, is the following notice which appeared shortly after the youth was arrested:

"Please! Kindness, sympathy, and consideration are needed now for the victim of Waynesboro's vicious crime of Sunday night; immediate justice is demanded for the perpetrator. Turn to Page 2 and read the comments in 'The Old Arm Chair.' The community faces a responsibility.

DEC 14 1940

The column referred to, taking it for granted that Mickens is guilty, explains how the youth came up in a bad environment, how the community is responsible for this, but continues to point out that Mickens is guilty.

TRY TO 'FRAME' VA. YOUTH ON ATTACK CHARGE

NAACP Takes Up Fight To Save Youth From Electric Chair

DEC 14 1940

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6530

LYNCHINGS-1940
RAPE: ALLEGED ATTACKS BY NEGROES

VIRGINIA

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
May 8, 1940

As It Should Be.

Van Gilmore, 31-year-old Negro of Memphis, Tennessee, was arrested April 18 on a charge of rape. He was indicted the following day and his case was placed on the court calendar a week later. He was arraigned Monday morning and the case went to the jury in the evening, and the jury, after deliberating eight minutes, returned a verdict of guilty and fixed the defendant's penalty at death in the electric chair.

Gilmore was accused of criminally assaulting a white woman on the night of April 17. During cross-examination he testified he had previously assaulted another white woman and three colored women. Conclusion of the one-day trial is said to have marked one of the speediest criminal prosecutions in Memphis in recent years. Within eighteen days after this Negro was arrested his doom had been sealed.

Justice rarely moves so swiftly anywhere. One serious obstacle to the campaign against crime is the law's delay. Often the delay seems unreasonable and is discouraging to the law-abiding public. It is due to difficulties encountered by the prosecution in many cases, and the difficulties are due largely to legal technicalities which, it sometimes seems, were invented for the purposes for which they are used. One of those purposes is to save offenders against society from the consequences of their acts.

These difficulties were absent in the case of the Memphis Negro. He not only confessed the crime with which he was charged but admitted other similar crimes. It is well that he has been caught and that his criminal career is to be permanently checked. Also that he is to be disposed of in a legal and orderly manner. There probably is not a chance that a mob will take Van Gilmore from the hands of the law and lynch him and thus, in presuming to avenge one crime, committing another and more serious crime. The prompt arrest, the speedy prosecution, the rule of the law—all of this is as it should be.

Robbed and Attacked, Maid Says

Two Men Are Held Without Bail Following Charges

RICHMOND. — Accused of kidnaping, criminally assaulting and robbing a maid, two men held without bail by Henrico County authorities are expected to be given a hearing in Henrico trial justice court next Tuesday.

Held for a hearing when their case was called on Tuesday were John Hocker and John Ayers, both described as resident of Henrico County. Hocker was charged with criminal assault and robbery, while Ayers was charged with robbery.

Made Ill by Experience

The victim of the assault was Miss Annie May Chalkley, 24, who was made ill by her harrowing experience.

She told police that she went for an auto ride early Sunday morning with John Wright of 129 W. Canal Street.

Wright drove to Providence Park and left her in the car while he made a call on a friend.

After a few minutes, she related, three men, all carrying revolvers, appeared and demanded that she give them her money. The woman said that she turned over $9, but the men were not satisfied and dragged her from the car.

Dragged to Field

After taking her to a field a block away, two men assaulted her, she said. Miss Chalkley declared that each man held a gun to her head while the other attacked her.

After the men left her she went back to the car, and Wright found her when he came from the house where he had been visiting.

Residents in the thickly settled section gave Miss Chalkey first aid, and Wright then drove the woman to Henrico police headquarters.

Officer L. T. Wade arrested two suspects within an hour after Miss Chalkey told her story to Police Dispatcher John Payne, Jr.

Miss Chalkey is employed in the 2000 block of Monument Avenue.

Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch
September 14, 1940

A Fair Trial, of Course

HIGH praise is due DETECTIVE SERGEANTS C. L. BROWN and E. A. KELLEY for their efficient work in connection with the brutal criminal attack on a young Richmond woman, and for the speed with which they took into custody four defendants, each of whom is said to have sought to shift the blame to the other three. If they are guilty of this horrible and revolting crime, they deserve, of course, to suffer the ultimate penalty—death in the electric chair.

But let us not forget that they are entitled to a fair trial, and to the advice of counsel. It is natural after such a crime has been committed, that there should be considerable excitement and a tendency toward undue haste in going through the normal legal processes. The classic example is, of course, the Scottsboro case, wherein nine innocent Negro youths were railroaded to Alabama death cells on flimsy evidence, and subsequently saved by the timely intervention of outsiders.

Richmond isn't in the habit of railroading people to the chair, and it can be taken for granted that there will be no departure from that practice in the instant case. The crime these men are charged with is one for which the chair is the usual penalty, in the event of conviction. If these defendants are convicted—as they certainly will be, if they are guilty—retribution will be swift and sure.

Fortunately there is every reason to believe that Richmond will uphold its reputation for fairness and objectivity in this trial, no matter how friendless and despised the accused may be.

White Woman Says Boy, 15 Attacked Her

Baltimore, Md.
DEC 1940

WAYNESBORO, Va. — Joseph Mickens, 15, is being held in the Roanoke jail on a charge of "malicious and felonious" attack on a young married white woman who say she "lost conciousness" after her alleged attacker dragged her into a vacant lot, but recovered in time to "see" her assailant "fleeing," Sunday night.

Mickens, one of a family of eleven children—seven boys and four girls, was arrested here Monday morning for questioning concerning a robbery attempt at a local concern. He was also questioned by local officers, Chief John M. Webb of Staunton, and G. M. Gilkeson, Augusta County sheriff, in connection with the alleged attack.

"Confessed" at 1 a.m.

According to Sheriff Gilkeson, the youth at first denied any connection with the attack, but "finaly admitted it" in a "statement" signed at local police headquarters at 1 a.m., Tuesday morning. The youthful prisoner "described" the alleged attack, according to the sheriff.

City Manager I. G. Vass, who handled the "investigation" of the case in the illness of the local chief of police, R. L. Switzer, reported on Tuesday night that Mickens had been transferred to the Roanoke jail, this action having been ordered "as a precautionary measure."

Plan Special Grand Jury

The white woman—mother of a three-month-old child, said she was returning alone to her home after a motion picture when, she said, she "was seized from the rear and dragged into a vacant lot," losing consciousness, but regaining it in time to see her assailant fleeing.

Commonwealth's Attoreny John D. White of Augusta County, said on Wednesday, that he would petition Circuit Judge Floridus Crosby to call a special grand jury, during the day, to act on the case.

N. A. A. C. P. To Defend Youth Held For Assault

DEC 21 1940

Town Paper Convicts Him Before Trial

WAYNESBORO, Va. — Joseph Mickens, fifteen-year-old Negro youth who was about to be railroaded to prison and execution on the charge of having raped a white woman, Mrs. Clarence S. Pye, here November 24, after having reputedly -'confessed" to the crime following "questioning" by at least ten police officials, will be represented by Oliver W. Hill, N. A. A. C. P. attorney, when his case comes to trial in nearby Staunton on December 19.

According to Hill, who interviewed Mickens at the Roanoke jail, where he is confined pending his trial, the youth, one of eleven children, who quit school in the fifth grade, was picked up Monday, November 25, by local police on suspicion that he had broken into two warehouses located near his home here. He was questioned concerning these robberies and also about the criminal assault on Mrs. Pye, by the Waynesboro chief of police and other local officials. The police chief, convinced of Mickens' innocence of all these charges, was about to release him when City Manager Vass insisted that the youth be held for failure to pay a traffic [illegible]

That night, according to Mickens, some ten police officials, including the police chief of Staunton, Virginia, questioned him "at length," and later gave out the story that he had confessed. Denying the confession, the youth said the police officials took turns questioning him until the whole procedure became blurred in his mind. Despite the fact that Mickens is out on probation because of some incident involving a bicycle over a year ago, his reputation in the community is considered good. He and his family have lived in Waynesboro for many years.

What is regarded as a definite attempt on the part of the local paper to "try" Mickens, and find him "guilty," before his case comes to trial, is the following notice which appeared shortly after the youth was arrested:

"Please! Kindness, sympathy and consideration are needed now for the victim of Waynesboro's vicious crime of Sunday night; immediate justice is demanded for the perpetrator. Turn to Page 2 and read the comments in 'The Old Arm Chair.' The community faces a responsibility."

The column referred to, taking it for granted that Mickens is guilty, explains how the youth came up in a bad environment, how the community is responsible for this, but continues to point out that Mickens is guilty.

Vote for New Local Officers

Four thousand International Brotherhood of Teamsters' drivers employed by the Sheffield milk company went to the polls yesterday to vote for new officers of Local 584 of the union.

Running for office were seven aspirants to the local's executive board and six business agents.

Voting booths were set up in 37 barns of the Sheffield company throughout the area in which Local 584 members work.

Two main slates contesting for office were those composed of the incumbent officers, elected two years ago, and a second known as the Square Deal slate. Several independent candidates also ran for office.

Up until late last night, tabulations showed that the incumbents and the Square Deal candidates were running neck and neck. The results will be announced sometime today.

majority vote. Abramson's group utilized its slight marking to pack the staff of officers and the executive board with a preponderance of its people.

ABRAMSON PRESIDENT

Abramson was elected as president with 304 votes to 268 for Joseph Metton, president of the Camden RCA local of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers.

Following that vote on a roll call there was little trouble on the rest of the slate, which Abramson railroaded through despite many nominations of other candidates made in caucuses of the respective union delegations.

Seven vice-presidents were elected. Carl Holderman was elected treasurer, and 21 members of the executive board were named.

The first indication of the convention's line-up came this morning when a roll call vote on a constitutional proposal resulted in 305 for the Abramson group and 293 for the progressives. The 293 votes went for a proposal which would have cut down representation of the textile union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, which

(Continued on Page 2)

ACCUSED NEGRO'S NEIGHBORS DON'T BELIEVE 'RAPE' STORY

DEC 16 1940

Daily Worker

New York Sun

(Special to the Daily Worker)

GREENWICH, Conn., Dec. 15. Joseph Spell, 31-year-old Negro chauffeur, will be arraigned here at 10 A. M. tomorrow (Monday) before Judge Lewis E. Sisson in Greenwich Town Court on a charge of "criminal assault" brought by his social-registerite employer, Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr.

Spell, who has denied the accusation and whose attorneys have repudiated the only version of the alleged "crime" which has been told—the story of Mrs. Strubing—will be represented by Attorneys Marshall and Samuel E. Friedman, supplied by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Peoples.

By Eugene Gordon

(Special to the Daily Worker)

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Dec. 15.—What do Joseph Spell's Negro neighbors think of him, now that he has made the front page of New York's biggest newspapers as a "rapist" and "kidnapper" of the wealthy and socially prominent Mrs. John K. Strubing, Jr., of the famous Philadelphia Strubings?

A canvas of sections of White Plains and nearby Greenburg yesterday revealed varying opinions. They were opinions, however, which added up to one conclusion.

That conclusion was that Joe ("Red") Spell just couldn't have done

The contradictory tales told by Mrs. Strubing, the disappearing "ransom note," the story of her and Spell's being ordered by police to move on when found parked in a woods the police not noticing that the lady was "tied up," to say nothing of the four "attacks" on Mrs. Strubing while she remained mute—"It seems awfully fishy," Spell's neighbors say.

The head barber in the dilapidated little shop on the main thoroughfare of the Negro section advised that I go and see the Rev. Joseph Stukes, 10 North Lexington Ave. The Rev. Mr. Stukes' rundown old two-story frame house, at number 10, is also headquarters of an employment agency.

SAYS NEWSPAPERS LIE

Mr. Stukes was kindly but cautious. A smallish, dark man of between 35 and 40, he spoke in almost a caressing voice, using the same tone to me and to the numerous persons whose phone calls interrupted our long conversation. Despite his cautiousness, however, he was candid.

"These newspapers," he said. "They lie so that we have to be careful what we tell them and how we tell it."

That explained his cautiousness. He had been repeatedly misrepresented—and so had Spell—since the

(Continued on Page 2)

their clutches, and the captives flounder in even greater distress than before. The first American Rescue Ship Mission is an organized effort to render assistance to God's struggling vanguard of democracy. Permission has been granted for their admission to Mexico. We are endeavoring to raise three hundred thousand dollars so that we may provide a ship for their transportation.

"It seems to me there cannot be a more sincere or sacred way to honor our Refugee of Compassion than by participating in this fulfillment of His Wish that the shelterless be taken in.

"This letter is earnestly to beg you on December 15th or on the 22nd please to present the cause of the first American Rescue Ship Mission to your church.

"You will, I am sure, approve the Rescue Mission as a practical means of giving urgent aid to victims of aggression without playing them into the hands of their prosecutors. If you cooperate with us, God's Blessing will truly come into our troubled hearts and sore tried faith.

"Cordially yours, Helen Keller, Honorary Chairman, Ameican Rescue Ship Mission."

112 workers, 143 collective farmers, 484 intellectuals and professional employes. Sixty-five of these candidates have been decorated with orders and medals of the U.S.S.R.

"The strength and invincibility of the Communist Party lies in its close contacts with the non-Party masses. In 23 districts, 1,772 non-Party candidates have been nominated.

"In the Shelteroso district, which is inhabited primarily by the Veps nationality, 85 of the 89 candidates are Veps.

"The Karelo-Finnish people are going to the polls imbued with admiration and respect for the Communist Party and its great leader Stalin."

Coal Production in USSR Exceeds Schedule

(Wireless to the Daily Worker)

MOSCOW, Dec. 15. — Planned output of coal for the first ten days of December has been overfulfilled in almost every producing region, it was announced here today.

Mines in the Donbas and Kuzbas and in the Moscow, Karaganda and Cheremkhovo basins are operating far ahead of schedule

ACCUSED NEGRO'S NEIGHBORS DON'T BELIEVE 'RAPE' STORY

(Continued from Page 1)

case had broken into newspaper headlines. He was **not**, he said frankly, afraid to talk to the Daily Worker.

Mr. and Mrs. Spell had first come to the employment agency in the summer. He had got them several jobs of brief duration. Spell always desired jobs on which his wife could work with him. He was an attractive, quiet young fellow.

"Very quiet and very kind, I should say. He helped me in the mission and even contemplated becoming a preacher."

What mission did Mr. Stukes refer to?

"We have a mission here," he explained, digging a card from the disorder on his piled-up desk.

These were the kinds of people with whom Spell had been associated in White Plains — ordinary, everyday, hard-working Negro citizens who went to church not only Sundays but some nights during the week, too.

"With all that, though," the Rev. Mr. Stukes said of Spell, "he was a human, genuine person, subject to human weaknesses. It is not for me to say what he did or did not do there in that Mrs. Strubing's house, because I don't know," he said. "But I do know that I don't believe he is guilty. I just don't believe it. It wasn't in him, so far as I could judge."

OTHER BACKERS

He added that lots of the white people for whom Spell had worked —wealthy women for whom Mr. Stukes had got Spell jobs—felt the same way about it. He had received numerous calls from these people, he said, declaring in each case that they could say from their experiences with him that they didn't believe he could be guilty.

Mr. Stukes gave me the address of the rooming house in Greenburg where Mr. and Mrs. Spell had lived. I took a bus over there and met Mrs. Alice Moss, the superintendent of the house.

She, too, after days of unpleasantness with sensation-seeking newspapers, was cautious. Later, however, she spoke freely.

"'Red' Spell — that's what they called him round here—never impressed me like a man that'd assault a woman. He was attractive and had appealing ways about him, and women liked him. But he and his wife always worked together."

There were lots of "phony" angles about the business, Mrs. Moss said. How, for instance, did Mrs. Strubing know (as she was reported in one story as saying) that Spell's wife had taken a sleeping tablet? And why should the "kidnapper" hand his victim the ransom note?

Neighbors dropped in while Mrs. Moss and I were talking. They all agreed that the whole story was "fishy."

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

ALABAMA

6532

Youth Held For Attack On Girl

CULLMAN, ALA., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Virgil McGraw, 17, of Albertville, Ala., was held on an assault charge today after Sheriff J. D. Mitchell said the youth admitted attacking a 13-year-old Cullman girl.

McGraw is being held without bond on a warrant sworn to by Mitchell, pending action of a Cullman grand jury which meets Feb. 5.

Under questioning, the sheriff said McGraw admitted attacking the girl here the night of Dec. 30 as she returned to her home after a picture show.

The youth, visiting here at the time of the assault, was arrested Monday at his home in Albertville, Mitchel added.

Operator Gets Maximum Penalty

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(SNS)—John W. "Buck" Gardner, white operator of Burt's Golden Rule Inn in Woodlawn was given a fine of $100 and sentenced to twelve months last Monday following an all-day trial on charges of criminal assault before Judge Emmett Perry in Juvenile court. The sentence was the maximum that could be imposed by the court.

Gardner was arrested on May 29 following charges brought by white neighbors who testified they saw the cafe operator go into the lavatory adjoining the cafe and thirteen-year-old Josephine Wilson follow. Judge Perry in delivering the sentence stated that the court had no higher duty than the protection of children and set appeal bond at $500. Atty. Morrel Montgomery, who represented the accused brought out that the World had carried the story and that the women had given it to reporters in their Home. Lillie Mae Williams, 236 S 63rd Street, testified for the cafe operator and against the character of the woman bringing the charges. The fourth grade Patterson School girl stated that she had been paid on several occasions by the man in small sums of money.

The cafe is located on the edge of the Negro neighborhood and has only white patronage. Only one colored spectator witnessed the trial. Solicitor Ernest L. Hargrove placed several witnesses on the stand to show that the defendant had a bad reputation of long standing. Among the witnesses who appeared to testify as to the good reputation of the accused two are employed by the News Age-Herald.

Two Denied Bond In Attack Charge

Judge H. B. Abernethy denied bond yesterday afternoon to two Docena young men, whom he ordered bound over to await action of the Grand Jury after their preliminary hearings on charges of criminally attacking a 23-year-old Ensley girl.

James Willard Vance, 24, and Fred Vincent Lawson, 23, are the defendants. According to the testimony of the prosecuting witness Lawson and Vance met her at the Ensley cafe where she is employed and offered to drive her to her home after she got off work. Instead, she testified, they drove her to a secluded point near Bayview and each attacked her.

The defense offered no testimony. George Ross, attorney for Vincent and Lawson, said he will institute habeas corpus proceedings in an effort to obtain bond. Ross said at that time he will raise the contention that the place where the reported attack occurred is in the Bessemer division of the county. If that is proved, Ross said, the cases will have to be investigated by the Grand Jury in Bessemer instead of in Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM GIRL FOUND STRANGLED IN ROOMING HOUSE

OCT 7 1940

FBI Asked to Help Police in Hunt for Slayer of Child

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 6.—A 10-year-old Birmingham schoolgirl, Patrica Marie Ratliff, was found strangled and mutilated in her bed today by her widowed mother, whose screams brought scores of neighbors to their boarding house home.

A physician's inquest revealed that she had been assaulted. The time of the crime was set at midnight by Coroner Gip M. Evans, although the body was not found for nearly 12 hours.

Police Chief T. A. Riley assigned every detective on his force to the crime.

Mrs. Flora B. Ratliff, the mother, was prostrated by her discovery, but was unable to throw any light on the murder. She is a clerk in a downtown department store.

Patrica returned to the boarding house at 10:30 p. m. after attending a motion picture show and she and her 15-year-old brother, Jerry, made and ate sandwiches before they retired. Mrs. Ratliff returned shortly before midnight and entered the girl's room, but found nothing amiss.

Neither Jerry nor Mrs. Ratliff was aroused by the attacker. The mother wanted Patrica to sleep late today, since she was out beyond her usual bedtime last night, and did not enter the room until almost noon.

Detectives found a basement scree premoved and surmised the murderer entered by it, walked up a stairway and entered the room without arousing the Ratliffs or any of the other eight boarders at the home.

Several strands of hair were found on a blood-soaked pillow and the first check revealed they were not those of the victim or her family.

Patrica was in the fifth grade at the South Highlands school, five blocks from her home.

Her father, D. S. Ratliff, died in 1939.

Chief Riley asked the federal bureau of investigation to aid city police, "not that any federal statute has been violated, but because of their scientific training in crime detection."

Patrica was "popular with her classmates and a fine little girl in every way," Robert C. Johnston, her school principal said. She was large for her age.

Police Report Solution In Death Of Ratliff Child

Slayer Suffering From Hysterical Amnesia, Chief Hollums Says

OCT 10 1940

Solution of the attack and murder of Patricia Marie Ratliff is in the hands of the police, Chief of Detectives Luther Hollums announced Thursday morning, and requires but the working out of a few minor details before the name of the slayer can be divulged.

Chief Hollums said that part of the crime was committed while the slayer was suffering from hysterical amnesia, but the detective chief declined to amplify which part of the double-crime was committed while the 10-year-old girl's assailant was so suffering.

OCT 10 1940

Chief Hollums who visited the stricken home in the midst of the respectable and fashionable Southside district Wednesday night, said that Mrs. Flora Elizabeth Ratliff, mother of the slain girl, is still prostrated with grief and under the care of a physician, but that the entire Ratliff family is satisfied with progress made in the case.

Officers Taken Off Case

What the minor details were, Chief Hollums declined to say, but said the case had progressed to the point where all officers specifically assigned to it, with the exception of Detectives William M. Espey and Jack Bryant, will be taken off the case as these men are all that are required to compelte it.

Asked if the minor details included the arrival of the reports of the Federal Bureau of Investigation crime laboratory in Washington, Chief Hollums said he would not "consider that report minor, but major in character."

These clues sent to the laboratory included blood-stained bed clothing taken from the murder bed and a pair of torn and soiled pajamas found a block from the scene and several strands of hair, which apparently did not come from the head of the little girl.

The body of the child was found about 10:40 a.m. Sunday by her mother when the latter went to call Patricia for breakfast. Investigating officers said the little girl had been dead about 10 or 12 hours at the time.

Jerry Ratliff, her 14-year-old brother and a student at Ramsay High School, who slept in a room directly across the hall from the death scene, told officers he and his sister enjoyed a late snack together about 11 p.m. on the night before her body was discovered, and that while the little girl went on to bed, he went to the bathroom and bathed before he retired.

Mrs. Ratliff told officers in her first statement that she had returned home at midnight, intending to sleep with her daughter, as was her custom, but changed her mind and slept in another room rather than to awaken the child.

In a subsequent statement, she told officers she had returned about 3 a.m., and that her escort, who accompanied her into the house, had heard someone moving downstairs.

FATHER WEEPS AS IDENTIFYING WASTED CORPS

Authorities Round Up 4 More Suspects In New Hunt For Slayer

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 26—Workmen employed to fill an order for Paramount studio calling for a certain type of grass, parked their car near West Jefferson and Culver boulevards, Friday and while raking some 50 yards from the roadway, unearthed the body of nine-year-old Dorothy Gordon, kidnaped near her home on March 5. Lieuts. Paul Stevens and Trosper of the homicide squad were dispatched to the scene.

Carefully removing thick mud and weeds that covered the form officers were able to identify from a police bulletin, clothing worn by the girl at the time of her disappearance. Captain Edgar Edwards in charge of the state-wide hunt for the girl and her white abductor sped to the scene with a corps of picked detectives, as did Inspector of Police David I. Davidson.

Coroner's deputies who arrived to exhume the body from its shallow grave, substantiated the police opinion as to the identity of the body after William Gordon, the victim's father, confirmed the identification.

Police then combed virtually every inch of territory a hundred yards in all directions, seeking the instrument of death, believed to have been a knife, or the shovel used to scoop out the shallow makeshift grave in which the body lay. Scores of curious citizens attracted to the scene were kept back with difficulty.

Dorothy the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Gordon of 1458 East Twenty-third street, disappeared while on her way home from an Easter Sunday church rehearsal. Seven-year-old Christine Pollard, her chum, was the last to see her as she was lured into an automobile driven by a white man near the corner of Sixteenth street and Hooper avenue. Since her disappearance all law enforcement agencies including the police, sheriff, district attorney and the federal bureau of investigation had cooperated in an effort to locate the child and bring to justice her kidnaper.

Despite the fact more police officers were used to unravel this mystery than any other case, including the Hickman kidnaping and murdering of the 10-year-old wealthy Parker child, the present case has proven the most baffling, because the abductor left no clues. Police have virtually been working in the dark. The finding of the body offered the first break in the case to date.

Shortly after the discovery of the body police rounded up scores of known degenerates and other suspects for a re-check on their activities over the past 6 weeks.

Held on suspicion of morals offenses were Luther G. Atchley, 43, of 1017 West Forty-second place and Richard Ben Wiseman, 44, of 2110 South Grand avenue. Both men however, deny any knowledge of the Gordon girl murder.

High up in the hills to the South of the spot where the body was found are the buildings and campus of Loyola university. A short distance westward are the blue waters of the Pacific ocean. In between and around are located oil well derricks and crude oil refineries.

shortly after the girl was kidnaped by an unknown white man on March 5.

Besides the money received for the finders of the murdered girl, the sum of over $2,000 still remains as reward for the apprehension and conviction of the widelyhunted sex fiend who abducted the little girl as she was returning from Easter rehearsal.

In charge of the cash and slated to turn it over with fitting ceremonies is Rev. D. C. Austin, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist church, to which the little victim belonged.

Rewards Paid Men Who Found Body

LOS ANGELES—(ANP)—Carrying out the promises made by a citizen's committee formed to handle rewards offered for the return, dead or alive, of 9-year-old Dorothy Gordon preparations were made to turn over the cash to the parties claiming it on May 13.

Totaling approximately $400, this sum goes to Frank Roman, Willard and Andrew Johnson, employes of the property department of Paramount studio, who discovered the body. It had become partly uncovered by rains, after being buried

Maid Sues Wealthy Los Angeles Man For Attack

OCT 12 1940

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—The case of Mrs. Juliette Smith, claiming damages by reason of assault allegedly committed by Quentin Roland Smith, white, wealthy West Los Angeles resident of the Belair section, is scheduled for trial in superior court of Los Angeles this week, with Atty. Hugh E. Macbeth representing Mrs. Smith.

The complaint alleges that Mrs. Smith was violently and passionately assaulted by defendant without cause, provocation, excuse, inducement or permission on the part of the plaintiff, and that she fought off the advances of said defendant who released her only when the fellow servants came to her rescue.

Quentin Roland Smith, the defendant, formerly of Freeport, near Chicago, has denied the charges in his answer.

to kiss and make love to a maid employed in his home in January, 1939, Quentin Roland Smith, wealth Bel-Air resident of the fashionable West Los Angeles district, faced Superior Court Judge Carl A. Stutsman, Department 17 as defendant in a $15,000 complaint for damages by reason of assault upon Mrs. Juliette Smith.

The plaintiff had been employed about a year at the home of Smith and his wife, Mrs. L. Smith, 382 Copa De Oro Rd., on January 30, 1939, when Smith put his arms about the maid, kissed her and proposed to make love to her, according to evidence produced at the trial.

The maid declared she fought off her employer's advances and that he released her only when other servants came to her rescue.

Represented by Attorney Hugh E. Macbeth, Mrs. Smith, the maid and cook, fought off charges brought against her through the office of District Attorney Buron Fitts earlier this year, after she was discharged from the Smith household.

Judgment in this "Kiss Suit" for damages amounting to $750 was awarded the maid.

CHARGED BOSS MOLESTED HER

Counter-Charges of Theft Against Her Are Dismissed

OCT 19 1940

LOS ANGELES, Cal. (Special)—Charged with attempting

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

CALIFORNIA

6534

GOV. OFFERS $1000 REWARD IN W. COAST KIDNAPING CASE

Bee 3-31-40

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Mar. 28—Governor Culbert L. Olson Friday issued a proclamation setting aside $1,000 as a reward for information as to the whereabouts of nine-year-old Dorothy Gordon, believed to be the victim of a white kidnapper, or information which would lead to the apprehension of the kidnapper suspect.

Dorothy has been missing since Mar. 5, when she was seen entering an auto with a white man. The license plate on the car was thought to be 7X438, 1939.

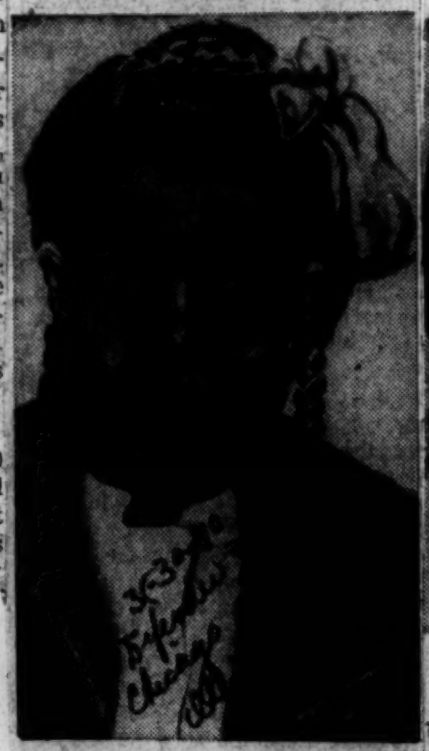
NAACP Offers Reward

An additional reward of $250 was announced by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, through its secretary, Thomas L. Griffith for information in the case. Other donors of rewards are the Eastside Citizens' Reward Committee and the Los Angeles Examiner, a local daily.

City officials are also exerting every effort to locate the missing child and her abductor. A huge blimp and a squadron of planes under the direction of Captain Claude Morgan of the sheriff's office has been asked to search with powerful binoculars, areas along the Los Angeles river—sections inaccessible to autos.

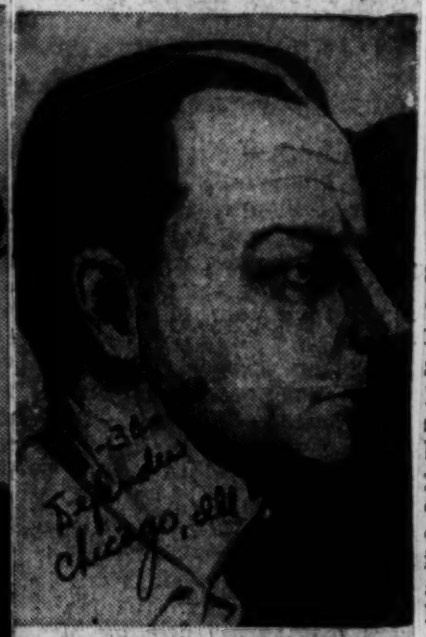
Christine Pollard, a friend of the missing child, and the last one to see her, has been taken on several tours through the factory districts of the city, in the hope that she might identify the kidnapper. However, up to the present no tangible clue has been found.

Have You Seen



DOROTHY GORDON
(ARTIST'S CONCEPTION)
Described at being nine years old, plump, four feet, six inches in height, weight about 85 pounds, dark of complexion, wide space between two upper front teeth. At time of her disappearance the child wore her long black hair in two braids down her back. She was dressed in a red-and-brown striped dress trimmed in white; black oxfords with outside flap-tongues covering the laces; yellow-and-green bobby sox.

Or



HER ABDUCTOR
(ARTIST'S CONCEPTION)
Unidentified white man about 40 years of ago; blond hair; weight about 170 pounds; height about six feet. When last seen was bare-headed; wore brown sweater, black oxfords. The man was driva grey Ford sedan, believed bearing a 1939 license, No. 7X438. Persons locating either of these principals are advised to immediately notify Capt. Edgar Edwards, Los Angeles police department, or report information to their local police.

California Governor Offers $1,000 For White Sex Fiend Who Kidnaped Negro Girl

Sheriff Uses Five Air Planes In Attempt To Locate 9-Year Old Dorothy Gordon

Black Dispatch 4-6-40

Victim Was Returning From Easter Service Practice

Oklahoma City, Okla.

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES.—(ANP)—Determined to make an example of white sex fiends who imagine they can mistreat colored children with impunity, the sheriff has thrown five of the best planes of his aerial squadron into the search for little 9-year-old Dorothy Gordon, kidnaped March 5 by a white man. Besides these, the mammoth dirigible balloon owned by the Goodyear Rubber Company, has been offered for service, and a squad of deputy sheriffs occupy its cabin cruising low over the isolated and inaccessible reaches of the hills in Los Angeles county. Observers accompanying the pilots in the speedy planes are also equipped with powerful binoculars, and are making a minute search of the territory.

Gov. Culbert L. Olson last Thursday, at Sacramento, heeded the request of citizens of Los Angeles and by proclamation decreed that an award of $1,000 be posted by the state for the apprehension of the abductor and the finding of Dorothy.

What was decided to be a kidnap lair was found Saturday in the rugged Palos Verde hills about 20 miles below Los Angeles. Occupants of the blimp which included Capt. Claude Morgan, head of the sheriff's flying division, sighted what at first they thought was a body. They sailed the big ship down to within 50 feet of the object, then radioed for patrol cars. The squads in the patrol cars found no body, but a Navajo Indian blanket, a seat cushion, a spotted dress and a dark roll of clothing atop a hill near a water tank.

Capt. Morgan stated he had launched the air search because there were so many sections in the mountains and hills that could not be reached by the many automobiles.

Although police authorities have given up hope of finding the little girl alive, the mother still hopes she will be brought back safe after many lonely days and nights of vigil. A total of $2,250 has been offered for the arrest and conviction of the kidnaper.

Little Dorothy was lured into a car by a white man on March 5, while returning from Easter service rehearsal at the Cornerstone Baptist church.

Coroner In Open Verdict

Cause of Her Death Still Remains Mystery

LOS ANGELES — (ANP) —Following the inquest last Tuesday morning over Dorothy Gordon, at which time a coroner's jury returned a verdict of homicide by a person or persons unknown, the last rites for the girl were conducted Thursday from Cornerstone Baptist church with Conner - Johnson in charge.

The 9-year-old girl for whom a nation-wide search had been in progress since last March 5, when she was kidnapped at 16th and Hooper Avenue by a middle-aged white man, was found last Friday afternoon buried in a shallow grave near Jefferson and Culver boulevards.

Three Paramount Studio horticultural department employes, Frank Roman, Willard Robbins and Andrew Johnson, the latter a Negro, were digging for carpetgrass to be used on a movie set, when they saw a knee and a portion of thigh protruding from a depression in the ground.

Object of a nation-wide search by law-enforcement agencies this was the first tangible clue as to the whereabouts of either the girl or her abductor. And when Mrs. Bernella Gordon, mother of the dead girl, living at 1458 E. 23rd street, was apprised of the discovery she collapsed.

Particularly significant is the discovery by a California Eagle reporter that one of the men who found the girl is a Negro, a fact not mentioned in the daily press of the nation.

Although police thought that Dorothy probably was bludgeoned to death, examination of the skull failed to substantiate this theory. Because of the condition of the body, which had apparently been buried shortly after the abduction, authorities were unable to determine the cause of death, although strangulation was hinted.

SUSPECT NABBED

Intensifying their search for the kidnaper-murderer police had their hottest suspect this week when on Monday they arrested Dave Klein, white, a San Diego florist, booking him on suspicion of attempted kidnaping.

At a police show-up Monday night, witnesses in the Gordon kidnaping case and other victims of molestations were unable to positively identify Klein as the guilty party. Homicide detail officers, returning here yesterday from San Diego, learned that Klein who has been released, was in San Diego at the time of the kidnaping last March.

Besides questioning all known sex degenerates, Captain Edgar Edwards this week again urged that anyone who saw a white man with a young Negro girl in a car anytime after March 5 anywhere in the Southland to contact him at the Los Angeles police homicide bureau.

DISMISS ALL SUSPECTS IN KIDNAPING

F. B. I. Refuses to Aid in Search for California Girl

HOLLYWOOD. —(ANP) —With three more suspects in the Dorothy Gordon kidnaping case released, the disappearance of the nine-year-old child on March 5 is no nearer solution than before.

Police released Jack Drummond, 48, and Albert Scott, 22, last Thursday night after their records and activities on that date and since had been thoroughly checked up, and they had been placed in the show-up room before a witness who had seen the white man charged with the abduction of the girl.

They were being held for investigation after police had been tipped off that they had been heard discussing a kidnaping and that Scott had bragged that he had "killed three little girls." This latter statement police judged to have been a misunderstanding on the part of the informant.

The third suspect, Percy Hicks, arrested March 26 when evidence pointed to the fact that he may have recently disposed of a body, from bloody paper, a knife, etc., found in his shack, was absolved from this charge but held for violation of parole. He had been sentenced to 60 days in jail on a drunk charge on February 25. He served seven days, and was given a suspended sentence of 53 days.

No F. B. I. Aid

LOS ANGELES — Californians were shocked to learn Friday morning to learn that the United States attorney general's office in Washington had advised the F.B.I. not to enter California in answer to the plea from a Citizens committee to aid in the search for nine-year-old Dorothy Lee Gordon.

The attorney general's action was based on the ground that there is "not sufficient evidence to prove kidnapping and transportation of the child across the state line."

A reward committee headed by the Rev. D. C. Austin, pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist church, and supported by most of the civic organizations of the city have induced the governor of the state to offer a reward of $1,000. To this has been added $250 from the N. A.A.C.P., $50 from the Golden West Lodge 86, I.B.P.O.E.W., and contributions from other sources bringing the amount up to $2,500.

RELEASE ALL SUSPECTS IN KIDNAP CASE

9-Year-Old Los Angeles Girl Still Missing As Search Continues

LOS ANGELES, April 12— (ANP)—With three more suspects in the Dorothy Gordon kidnaping case released, the disappearance of the nine-year-old child on March 5 is no nearer solution than before.

Police released Jack Drummond, 48, and Albert Scott, 22, both white, last Thursday night after their records and activities on that date and since had been thoroughly checked, and they had been placed in the show-up room before witnesses who had seen the abduction.

The suspects were being held for investigation after police learned they had been heard discussing a kidnapping and that Scott had bragged he "killed three little girls."

A third suspect, Percy Hicks, arrested March 26 after some bloody paper and a knife were found in his shack, was absolved last week.

Charges of negligence by the Federal Bureau of Investigation were hurled here this week when it was learned that G-men refused to take any action in the kidnapping.

It had been generally assumed that the F.B.I. was working with the city and county on the case. But when a committee from the Eastside Citizens Reward Fund committee called on the local F.B.I. officials, they were told that nothing had been done. Investigators said their "hands were tied" because they couldn't move until they got an okeh from Attorney General Robert Jackson in Washington, .D C. They claimed they had sent particulars in the case to Jackson two weeks ago, but had not received any word from him one way or another.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles police admitted that their case against Percy Hicks, 48-year-old white transient suspected of having abducted the child, had about broken down completely.

ANGEL CITY IN UPROAR; 'G' MEN IN MAN-HUNT

LOS ANGELES, March 21. Terror struck again at the hearts of the relatives of 9-year-old Dorothy Gordon, missing since March 5th, when news of her whereabouts failed to materialize following the arrest of hundreds of white sex fiends answering the description of the middle-aged white man who enticed her into an automobile on her way home from rehearsing for an Easter play.

The police, baffled by the mystery of the girl's disappearance, have called in government agents, who have set in motion a nation-wide hunt for the man. United States Attorney Fiest Palmer, explained that the reason the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not entered the case sooner is because of the Lindbergh law. He said the victim must be taken out of the state, thereby violating the inter-state commerce laws. In the meantime, Chief of Police Arthur Hohmann ordered "Find that child . . . smoke the kidnaper out of hiding."

"Assign sufficient personnel to parks and other locations to search for clues."

Since the alarm was spread Tuesday evening, March 5th, not a single trace of the child and her kidnaper have been found.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

CALIFORNIA

6535

New York Girl Victim Of California Madman

PASADENA, Calif., March 22—Because she felt compassion for a white man and so tried to help him "out of a jam," Mrs. Katherine Berry, 25, who arrived here a month ago from New York, is in a critical condition at her home, the victim of that man's fiendish attack upon her last Wednesday night.

As a result of the attack and bestial abuse to which he is said to have subjected Mrs. Berry, Roy Venoy McGaha was held under $50,000 bail following his arraignment on charges of kidnaping with intent to rob, assault and battery and rape. The kidnaping and robbery charge carries a death penalty in this state.

Hearing in the case is expected to be delayed pending the woman's sufficient recovery to testify. A chorus of boos and threats from other white prisoners greeted McGaha when he was placed in a cell at the local jail.

Quizzed About Child

Detectives Edward Ewing and Douglas Downey, who captured the suspect, later questioned him in connection with the disappearance of little 9-year-old Dorothy Gordon, who is still missing after being seen to enter a white man's automobile on March 5. Deputy District Attorney Orville Emerson is in charge of the investigation.

Mrs. Berry's harrowing experience was learned later on the night of her abduction when Detectives Ewing and Downey went to a service station at Glenarm street and Fair Oaks avenue, in response to a phone call, and found the woman cowering behind a safe.

She told them she had just fled from McGaha's auto and that he was in a nearby restaurant. The officers located the man a few moments later and upon examining him at police headquarters found his clothing torn and blood-spattered and mud upon his shoes. He denied Mrs. Berry's charges.

However, subsequent investigation corroborated most of Mrs. Berry's fantastic story of maltreatment at the hands of a sex degenerate whom she had thought to befriend.

Woman Tells Story

In reconstructing her experience the woman said she met a white man at a market near California street and Lake avenue. He asked her to telephone his wife, explaining that he was in bad with his mother-in-law.

His wife was not at home and Mrs. Berry said that as she stepped from the telephone booth situated near a side entrance of the market, the white man simulated a gun in his coat pocket and ordered her to go out to the parking lot, warning her to make no outcry.

In the parking lot, he forced her into his car.

As they began riding, he continually threatened her life. In South Pasadena, he stopped at a theatre and unsuccessfully attempted to cash a check.

The theatre manager and employees later told Detectives Ewing and Downey that while McGaha was there they noticed a young Race woman sitting in a car parked in front of the theatre.

Attempts Escape

As her captor headed for the deserted hills south of South Pasadena, Mrs. Berry said that she jumped from the car and tried to escape.

The man stopped the car, caught her, and forced her back into the car.

As he drove around the dark roads of the lonely Monterey Hills near what is known as Sheep Springs, McGaha spied an abandoned car, Mrs. Berry said.

He stopped and built a fire on the seat of the abandoned car, declaring that he was going to throw her in it and send her to a fiery death. He saw the headlights of another car in the hills, however put out the fire, and resumed driving.

CHILD, 9, STILL MISSING; HUNT WHITE SEDUCER

Citizens Raise Funds To Offer Reward For Moron's Capture

By HARRY LEVETTE

LOS ANGELES, March 22—(ANP)—A white sex-fiend and his nine-year-old Race victim, Dorothy Gordon, were still the object of a search here by 250 officers and citizens, after eight days. Instead of subsiding interest has increased until mass meetings are being held to raise money for a reward for the capture of the moron and return of the child.

Indignation is at its height, with much blame being placed on the police for their tardiness in throwing out a city-wide dragnet.

Setting a pace that was quickly followed by other organizations, the Golden West Lodge of Elks made a cash offer of $50 to any one giving information leading to the arrest of the person who kidnaped the Gordon child. A citizen's committee was formed and a mass meeting held under its jurisdiction last Thursday night, at the Cornerstone Baptist church, from which little Dorothy was en route home when inveigled into the white abductor's car.

The child answers the following description: four feet, six inches tall; weighs 85 pounds; very dark complexion; very plump; wide spaced upper front teeth; hair in two braids hanging down back; last seen dressed in red and brown striped dress, trimmed in white; black oxfords with outside flaps covering the laces, yellow-and-green bobby socks.

The man was bareheaded and driving a grey sedan. According to her companion, 11-year-old Christine Pollard, he was wearing a brown sweater. The federal bureau of investigation has also entered the case.

White Man Held in Kidnap Attack on Coast Matron

PASADENA, Calif., March 21—Pasadena citizens of both races were aroused this week over the alleged kidnap-attack and robbery of a colored woman by a white man, identified by the victim as Roy Venoy McGaha.

The victim, Mrs. Katherine Berry, 25, who arrived here from New York less than a month ago, identified McGaha as her assailant. He was held under $50,000 bail prior to his arraignment on charges of kidnapping with intent to rob, assault and battery and rape. Kidnapping and robbery both carry the death penalty in this state.

Trapped by Ruse

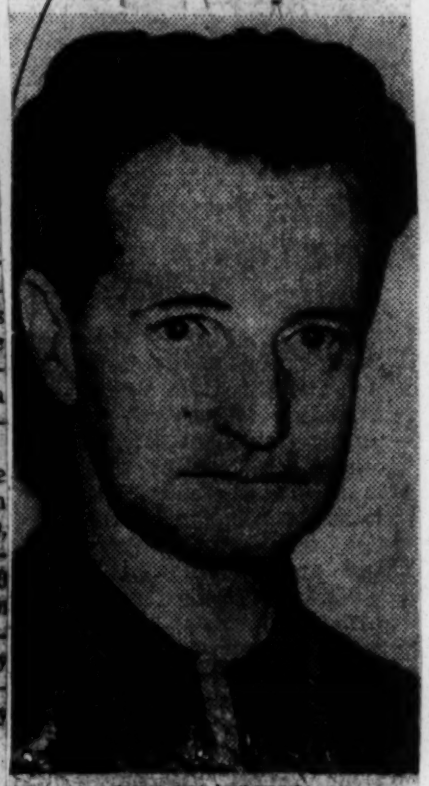
According to Mrs. Berry she met a white man, who was later identified as McGaha, at a market near California street and Lake avenue last week. He asked her to telephone his wife, explaining that he was in bad with his mother-in-law. However, his wife was not at home; and when she sought to leave the telephone booth, the man, simulating a gun in his pocket, forced her to enter his car which was parked nearby.

He then drove around the dark roads of lonely Monterey Hills and attacked her.

Mrs. Berry was unable to attend the hearing because of her condition. Her story was corroborated however, by Detectives Edward Ewing and Douglas Downey who captured the suspect and later questioned him concerning the disappearance of nine-year-old Dorothy Gordon. At that time the child was seen entering an automobile with a white man.

McGaha denied the charges Mrs. Berry made against him. He stated he was not drunk, and that it was all her fault.

IDENTIFIED



PERCY HICKS

19-year-old white suspect in the kidnapping of Dorothy Gordon, nine-year-old Los Angeles schoolgirl, who was identified as the abductor of the child by three other girls who witnessed the snatch. Hicks, who was drunk when arrested, has a record of several arrests and spent two years in jail on a morals charge.

Mystery Swallows Up White Sex Fiend and His Nine-Year-Old Colored Victim

Golden West Lodge Of Elks Offers $50.00 Reward For Capture of Degenerate

Police Accused of Tardiness in Action

LOS ANGELES.—(By Harry Levette for ANP)—As completely disappearing as if they had been swallowed up by the earth, a white sex-fiend and his nine year old colored victim, Dorothy Gordon, were still the object of search by 250 officers and many colored citizens, after eight days. Instead of subsiding, the interest and tenseness has increased, mass meetings were being held all last week to raise money for a reward for the capture of the hunted and to check on any new clues.

Indignation is at its height, with much blame placed on the police for their tardiness in throwing out a city-wide dragnet. Recent instances are being cited in which an excited white mother reported a child lost when it had only strayed for an hour or two or fallen asleep in the car. Yet in a few moments squad cars were darting here and there as an intensive hunt was launched that would have made it practically impossible for a kidnapper to have escaped had there had been one.

Setting the pace that was quickly followed by other organizations, the Golden West Lodge of Elks made a cash offer of $50 to any one giving information leading to the arrest of the person who kidnaped the Gordon child. A citizen's committee was formed and one of the largest mass meetings place last Thursday night, at the held under its jurisdiction took Cornerstone Baptist church, from which little Dorothy was en route home when inviegled into the white abductor's car.

Persons at a distance should also keep a watch out, for it is a known fact that a white man with a little colored girl in his car would attract little attention in the South, as there is always the possibility that she or her parents would be working on his farm or in his home. The child answers the following description: 4 feet 6 inches tall; weighs 85 pounds, very dark complexion, very plump legs and arms: wide spaced upper front teeth; hair in two braids hanging down back, last seen dressed in red and brown striped dress, trimmed in white, black oxfords with outside flaps covering the laces, yellow and green bobby socks.

The man was bareheaded and driving a grey sedan. According to her companion, 11 year old Christine Pollard, he was wearing a brown sweater. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has also entered the case.

Had Been Missing 46 Days

Florist Workers Find Body In Shallow Grave

By LAWRENCE LaMAR

LOS ANGELES—(N P B)—The body of nine-year-old Dorothy Gordon, missing from her home since March 5, was found Friday by a group of florist workers.

Hired by the Broadway Florist Shop to locate carpet grass for the Paramount Studio, the workers had parked their car near West Jefferson and Culvar Boulevards and were raking up the grass some yards from the road when they saw a pair of human knees sticking above the boggy earth.

Police officials arrived on the scene shortly after the the workers turned in the alarm.

Carefully removing the thick mud and weeds that covered the form of a small body, the officers soon were able to identify from a police bulletin description, clothing worn by Dorothy. Captain Edgar Edwards, commanding the police homicide detail and in general charge of the state-wide hunt for the girl and her white abductor, sped to the scene with a corps of picked detectives, as did Inspector of police David I. Davidson, former chief, with a squad of uniformed officers.

G-MEN ON SCENE

Capt. Edwards called all other police agencies including the sheriff, district attorney and G-Men to the scene. Captain Gray, head of the Sheriff's homicide squad, in whose territory the body was found, relinquished jurisdiction, so that all search and investigations at the scene could be coordinated under the direction of the Los Angeles police department. Coroner deputies who arrived to further exhume the body from its shallow grave, substantiated the police opinion as to the identity of the body.

This grim group of officers representing the pick of the western sleuths, after satisfying themselves of the girl's identity and how she probably met death, combed virtually every inch of the territory a hundred yards in all direction, seeking the instrument of death, believed to have been a knife, or the shovel used to scoop out the shallow makeshift grave in which the body lay. Scores of curious citizens attracted to the scene by ever increasing number of squad cars from various police agencies rushing to the spot with sirens open wide, were kept back with difficulty. Feeling ran high among these whites when it became known that the little Colored girl had been found slain.

DISAPPEARED MARCH 5

Dorothy Gordon, 9-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Gordon of 1458 East 23rd street, disappeared last March 5, on her way from an Easter Sunday church rehearsal. Seven-year-old Christine Pollard, her chum, was the last to see her as she got into an automobile driven by a white man near the corner of 16th street and Hooper avenue. Since her disappearance, she and her abductor have been the objects of a most intensified search, that saw all law enforcement agencies including the police, sheriff, district attorney, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation converge their strength in an effort to locate the child and bring to justice her kidnapper.

Despite the fact, that more police officers were used to unravel the mystery of the Gordon girl's disappearance than any other case.

Body of Kidnaped Child Is Found In Shallow Grave Deep Among Del Rey Hills

Identification Established Through Chemical Analysis of Clothing Worn

Citizens Demand Killer Be Brought To Justice

LOS ANGELES.—Indignation among citizens here rose to new heights last week with the finding of the body of Dorothy Lee Gordon, 9 year old school girl, who was kidnaped by a white sex feind on March 5. The remains were discovered Friday, April 19, by a searching party in a shallow grave in the Del Rey Hills.

A police chemist made the identification only through shoes the little girl wore and bits of her bright colored dress.

It was reported this week that Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have a description of the degenerate who lured the little school girl to her death, by offering her a ride home in his car. Citizens here are demanding that this killer be brought to justice.

LYNCHING 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

CONNECTICUT

6536

WHITE CONSTABLE ORDERED ARRESTED ON BENCH WARRANT

OCT 5 1940

PROSPECT, Conn., Oct. 3.—One of the wierdest tales ever to come before the attention of New Haven county authorities was revealed here this week with the arrest of Constable Whitney Price, 27-year-old white man, on two serious statutory charges.

Price was arrested on a bench warrant issued by State's Attorney William B. Fitzgerald on a complaint of a 21-year-old colored woman who told authorities that she was forced to submit to Price's mad sexual desires at gunpoint.

According to the story told by the woman, whose name is being guarded with the utmost secrecy, Price raided a spooning party, near the East mountain reservoir here, which was being staged by the woman and her boy friend.

Price is said to have ordered the woman into his car, brandished his service revolver at her companion and commanded him to leave the vicinity.

The man did as he was told, and, according to the victim, she was driven to another secluded section where, she says, Price attacked her and threatened her with his gun. Then he drove her back to her boy friend.

The victim is said to be under medical care as a result of her experience.

After the crime took place, she told her story to the State's attorney and the bench warrant was issued.

Had she gone to the lower courts to make her complaint, she apparently was afraid, the case may have been fixed before it was brought to the attention of the higher authorities.

White Rapist Gets 15 Years

OCT 12 1940

WATERBURY, Conn. — Central figure in a reverse of Dixie justice, Whitney Price, 27-year-old white constable of Prospect, last week began a sentence of from 10 to 15 years in the State prison for criminally attacking a young woman on the night of September 21.

Price was sentenced by Judge Alfred C. Baldwin in Criminal Superior Court on two statutory charges, a term of from 2 to 5 years on the second charge to be served concurrently with the longer sentence.

Male Escort Threatened

The 21-year-old victim of the crime was in the company of a male escort at the time.

While Price denied threatening the couple, Judge Baldwin called attention to the fact that he was wearing the badge of a peace officer and was in possession of a gun, the presence of which, he said, made Price guilty of an assault upon the young woman's companion.

He termed the crime "despicable" and told Price his story that consent had been given "doesn't ring true." "Things just don't happen that way," the judge added.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

D.C.

6537

WOMAN ATTACKED BY WHITE MAN ON WAY HOME

Mrs. Elsie Johnson, 35, of 619 Tenth Street, Northeast, told police she was attacked Saturday night in an alley by an unidentified white man as she was returning from her marketing.

"I have the asthma," Mrs. Johnson told police, "and was taking a short cut through the alley when I saw a tall white man coming across a school playground in the snow. He looked as though he was half running so I stepped aside to let him pass, when suddenly he grabbed me, pulling me back into another small alley."

The man held a pocket knife on her neck, according to Mrs. Johnson, threatening to cut her throat unless she succumbed. However, a car suddenly flashed into view, said Mrs. Johnson, and the man ran.

White Attack Suspects Indicted: Girl Bonded

WASHINGTON

Two white men accused of raping Miss Bessie Creech of the 1100 block of O Street, Northwest, when she went with them to the Cumberland Apartments to accept a job as maid in their home, were among 36 indicted by the grand jury, Tuesday.

On Monday, the grand jury ordered Miss Creech placed under $200 bond for her appearance in court, expressing the possibility that, since her home is in Wilson, N.C., and she is unemployed, she might not be available when the case is called.

Bond for the suspects was fixed at $5,000 each.

Offered Her Job

The men; Fred Edelcamp, and Charles Simmons, according to investigations, accosted Miss Creech in the 1800 block of Seventh Street, Northwest, just a few feet from the herb store operated by John King at 1811 Seventh Street, Northwest, where she had gone to answer a newspaper ad.

They asked her, she said, whether she had just come from "Dr. King's place," and when told that she had, they said they were looking for a girl to work in their home. Thinking the proposition was sound, she consented to go to their home in their auto, where she was allegedly assaulted by them, and by a third man who made his escape.

Murder Charges

True bills of first-degree murder were returned against Irving L. Young, 21, of Capitol Heights, Md.; Richard A. Anderson, 26, 1115 First Street, Northwest, and John Williams, 23, of 1221 Wylie Court, Northeast, for allegedly stabbing James Edwin Blush, 40, white, on February 10.

Testimony of 16-year-old Catherine Franklin indicated that Young stabbed Blush in the back, while Anderson and Williams held him, near 52 L Street, Northwest.

Other indictments from a list of 36 handed up to Justice Peyton Gordon in District Court Tuesday, by the District grand jury follows:

Held in Shooting

Second-degree murder: John E. Oakley, 19, accused of shooting William Green, 30, in the hallway of his home, 116 Florida Avenue, Northwest, during an argument on February 17.

Joyriding: Benjamin Williams, 20; Herman Hawkins, 18; Wilbert Gibson, 18; William L. Pinkney, 30; James Hollis, 27; Willis Carr, 24.

Grand larceny: Louie Twigg, 24.

Housebreaking and larceny: James U. Beasley, 21; Edward S. Gray, 22; Chester Reddix, 19; Amos R. Stepney 32; Leon Johnson, 26.

Robbery: James U. Beasley, 21; Edward S. Gray, 22; Amos R. Stepney 32; Leon Johnson, 26; James P. Gilbert, 28.

Mayhem: Anna Mae Evans, 22.

Assault with intent to rob: George T. Butler, 34.

Assault with dangerous weapon: Edward S. Gray, 22; James U. Beasley 21; Obie Stinson, 32; Mary Banks, 34 William Thompson, 32; James Edw. Willis, 23; Annie Henderson, 26; Charle Prince, 28.

Passing forged government check Pauline Williams, 45; Edward Winfoeld 22.

Violation of the numbers law: Clarence Gomillion, 42; Thomas Moten, 48 Henry Gray, 38.

Charges ignored by the grand jury were: Jabe Carrington, 27, and Edward McDowell, 36, homicide.

Two White Men Indicted for Assault on 19-Year-Old Girl

Two white men were indicted by the District grand jury on Tuesday for rape on a 19-year-old colored girl on March 1, when the latter answered a newspaper advertisement for a waitress job.

The girl told police she put an ad in a local daily for a position as waitress. She avers she received a call on March 1, to go to a Dr. King, at 1811 Seventh Street, Northwest. When she arrived there, she contends, she found the place fitted as a church.

Dr. King stated that he had a job for someone to look after his place. When she told him that she wanted a job as a waitress he told her that his place was a church and for her to leave.

She went out, according to her statements, and was called by three white men sitting in a car, who told her that they were the persons who had Dr. King to call.

She said they further told her that they were bachelors and had a dining room. She got into the car and was taken to the Cumberland Apartment house, where two of the men took her to an apartment.

According to her statement, these two wanted her to pose in the nude, which she refused. They then wanted her to disrobe to her waist, which she also refused. They showed her indecent and obscene pictures and offered her $20 if she would so pose, she told police.

She stated that they went out of the room to buy liquor and then she called Charles Ford of the funeral firm of Brown, Sutton and Ford and told him that she was being held as a prisoner. She could not tell just where she was, she said.

Then the men came back, snatched the telephone from her and attacked her. She told them, according to her statement, that someone was coming for her and then let her go.

Jury Fails to Agree in Attack Case

WASHINGTON

Hopelessly hung, a United States District Court jury late Thursday night gave up trying to decide the innocence or guilt of two white men accused of attacking coldly Miss Bessie M. Creech, 20, of 1624 Hamlin Street, Northeast.

The all-white, all-male jury reported to Justice George W. Morris that it was unable to agree and that there appeared to be no change in prospect. They had deliberated for eight hours.

New Trial Awaited

Court was adjourned and witnesses were discharged until a new trial is called, which will not be until after another panel has been drawn some time next month.

Miss Creech took the stand on Wednesday morning and charged the two middle-aged white men, Fred H. Edelkamp and Charles E. Simmons, with luring her to their downtown apartment on the offer of a job and assaulting her, with the aid of an unidentified accomplice.

She said that Edelkamp and Simmons accosted her as she was

leaving the office of the Rev. John King, 1811 Seventh Street, Northwest, on March 1, and promised her employment if she accompanied them to the "dining room" they operated.

Accuses All 3

She said she agreed to go with them but they took her, instead to a Thomas Circle apartment house where she was attacked, twice by Edelkamp and once each by Simmons and the third man.

Miss Creech gave a vivid description of the interior of the apartment and, with tears in her eyes, gave a detailed account of her experience. The two defendants sat throughout the course of her testimony, apparently unmoved.

Assistant United States Attorney Arthur J. McLaughlin branded the crime as "vicious and heinous," but did not seek the death penalty. Edelkamp and Simmons bore a confident air throughout the trial.

Upon adjournment, Mr. McLaughlin ordered Miss Creech released from custody of the women's bureau. She has been held by police as the chief Government witness. Edelkamp and Simmons were freed under bond of $2,000 each.

Attack Suspect Held in Capital For Fairfax

OCT 8 1943

Bail Fixed at $10,000 For Hearing Nov. 7 On Extradition

Linwood Claude Ezell, 30, of 1307 Twelfth street northwest, wanted by Fairfax County police on a charge of criminally assaulting a 15-year-old girl, was committed to the District jail yesterday to await extradition proceedings.

Ezell was placed under $10,000 bond pending the extradition hearing November 7. He was arrested at his home Saturday.

The girl, daughter of a New York City police official, told Sergt. H. T. Magarity, of Fairfax police, that she was assaulted on a lonely road between Merrifield and Annandale, Va., Friday night. She said she had gone out with Ezell on his invitation to take her to a dance near Falls Church.

The girl was being held at the District Receiving Home under a physician's care.

Sergt. Magarity said she had run off from her home in Brooklyn and had come to Washington to get a job.

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

GEORGIA

6538

Mead Draws 2-Year Term In Rape Case

Superior Judge A. M. Anderson yesterday sentenced Rufus Mead, 45, to two years in the penitentiary after the man pleaded guilty to charges of assault with intent to rape.

The prosecution alleged that the offense was committed against a 12-year-old girl who had been sought by authorities as a witness against the accused man. T. S. Wiley is being held in jail on a continuing contempt charge in connection with the case.

Judge Anderson gave no indication yesterday that Wiley would be released. The sentence imposed was recommended by Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett, afer witnesses altered statements made when Mead was indicted.

Frank Morris, a Negro, pleaded guilty to a voluntary manslaughter charge growing out of the fatal shooting of another Negro, Jimmie Carter, and was sentenced to from three to five years in the penitentiary.

A case charging Delma Scoggins with robbery was nolle prossed. Scoggins previously had been convicted in city court on an assault and battery charge growing out of the same incident.

Man Charged With Rape

A white man, listed on police records as R. T. Bonner, was arrested yesterday by Capt. D. W. Sapp and Lieut. B. F. Ong and charged with assault and attempt to rape.

An officers' report said that the alleged crime occurred about 6 a.m. yesterday morning near the lower end of Water street and was reported by a young white woman who gave a Macon address.

Doctors at Macon hospital said bruises around her throat indicated she had been choked.

According to officers, Bonner was put in a group of six men and identified by the young woman as the man who had attempted to rape her.

The officers said Bonner was arrested at a place known as the Five Mile club and that he was driving a car owned by Jimmy Bishop, night jailer.

Bishop said he did not lend Bonner the car and did not know he had it. Bishop said he leaves his automobile parked on Second street at the courthouse and never locks it.

ADMITS RAPING GIRL, THEN POSING AS HER RESCUER

Edward Unlehaun, 20 years old, 2441 North Halsted street, admitted yesterday to Assistant State's Attorney Samuel Pananek that he attempted to pose as the rescuer of a girl 16 years old after he raped her Saturday.

He said he arranged to meet her in a house at 2680 Orchard street in which she was caretaker and that he admitted himself with a key he had obtained from her before her arrival. When she came in Unlehaun said, he threw a blanket over her head before she got a glimpse of him. He said that after leaving her bound hand and foot he left the house and returned five minutes later and released her.

The girl confided her suspicions to Sheffield avenue police that Unlehaun was her assailant and he was arrested Monday. Altho he escaped then under fire from a police squad he later was surrendered by his brother.

Attacked, Robbed By 7 White Men

According to Frances Elder, 22-year-old housewife of 3322 Wabash avenue, she was accosted late Saturday night by a group of white men who threatened her with guns at 33rd and State. Mrs. Elder told police that she was forced by the group, whose number she gave as being seven, to accompany them to 3759 Halsted.

She was dragged to the rear garage of the place, where she alleged she was brutally attacked and robbed of $14.65.

6540

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

KANSAS

ALL WHITE JURY FINDS LESTER McCRADY GUILTY OF RAPING NEGRO GIRL

Jury Returns Verdict After Being Out For Several Hours; Judge and Prosecutor Show Marked Impartiality

KANSAS CITY, KAS. — Wednesday afternoon, a verdict of guilty was returned by an all white jury which heard the trial of Lester McCrady, white, charged with the rape of a 16-year-old Negro girl. The jury was out from 2:1(o'clock Tuesday afternoon until about 4:40 o'clock Wednesday.

Motion for a new trial, filed immediately after the verdict was returned, has not been passed upon. William Carson, attorney for the defendant, filed the motion.

The offense of which McCrady was found guilty carries a sentence of from five to 21 years in the state penitentiary.

Members of the jury which convicted McCrady were: Mrs. Buford E. Braly, foreman; Sam Miller, Chet Kinkenberg, Edward Brooks, E. T. Schaffer, John T. Medved, Adolph Mestdagh, C. E. Carnell, George Rush, H. G. Emert, H. F. Duncan, and G. B. Bond.

The case was heard in division No. 3, of the Wyandotte County district before Judge Harvey J. Emerson.

Throughout the trial, Judge Emerson maintained a fair and impartial attitude, which drew much grateful comment from persons who stood in the halls or filled every available seat in the speciousl courtroom.

The attitude of Attorney J. Stanley, Wyandotte County prosecutor, matched tha of the judge measure for measure in fairness and impartiality. Throughout his prosecution of the case he attempted to show the court the seriousness of the case, not as it applied to a Negro girl but to any girl who might have been the victim.

Evidence brought out at the trial established the fact that McCardy criminally attacked the girl early on the morning of August 3, while she was looking after the two small children of Mrs. Rachel Howard, white, 1724 North Thirteenth street.

Witnesses beside the girl were Earl Hutchings, record clerk in the Kansas City, Kas police department, and employer of the girl, 1715 North Thirteenth street; Trenmore DeMoss and Edward Hayes, of the Kansas City, Kas., detective bureau; Mrs. Rachel Howard, Dr. W. H. Dyer, city police surgeon, and Dr. A. Porter Davis, the girl's family physician. The written testimony of Thomas Ogan, deceased detective, was heard as a part of the state's evidence.

sented the N.A.A.C.P. in the case.

During the entire trial, the Negro citizenry showed its interest in the case by being present in large numbers at all sessions. The demeanor of those attending the trial was favorably commented on by Judge Emerson, who appeared that they had made no attempt to create too intense racial feeling or make a demonstration when the verdict of guilty was returned.

Among persons in evidence at all sessions of the trial were Mrs. Gustava Gray, prominent in the County Federation of Colored Women's clubs, and a member of the N.A.A.C.P. and Kansas Women's Civic circle; Mrs. V. H. Middlebrooks, executive secretary of the Yates branch Y.W.C.A.; Mrs. Elizabeth Buckner, secretary of the local branch of the N.A.A.C.P.; R. B. Brown, president of the N.A.A.C.P.; the Rev James A. Moore, moderator of the Kaw Valley District Baptist association, and representative members of the Interdenominational Ministerial alliance.

White Man Accused Of Raping Colored Girl Found Guilty By Jury

KANSAS CITY, Kan.—(ANP) Wednesday, Lester McCrady was found guilty of raping a 16-year-old colored girl last summer, by an all-white jury headed by a woman, Mrs. Buford E. Braly. The case was heard in the Wyandotte County district court No. 3. Judge Harver J. Emerson presided.

Immediately after the verdict, the attorney for the white man filed a motion for a new trial, but toward the close of the week no legal reports had been published concerning the decision of Judge Emerson. The white jury reached a decision after few hours of deliberating in face of the the fact that several white writers apparently made an attempt to shake the faith of the public by playing up the pleas of the colored girl during her first appearance which suggested that she did not want the white man prosecuted. It was also suggested that the public branded the girl with accepting a bribe prior to the date of the trial.

Girl Becomes Hysterical At Rape Trial

KANSAS CITY, Kas. — (Special —Hysterical and overwrought, Celia Bailey, the 17-year-old girl who is figuring in the rape case charge now being prosecuted against Lester McCrady, white, in division No. 3, of the Wyandotte County court, broke down and was unable to continue her testimony yesterday afternoon while on the witness stand.

The trial, scheduled to get under way Wednesday morning was not started until yesterday because of the prolongation of another case in the courtroom. Yesterday morning, the jury for the case was impaneled. All of the jurors are white and only one of them is a woman.

Arthur J. Stanley Jr., Wyandotte County attorney, is personally conducting the prosecution of the case of the state against McCrady. Special assistants in the case have been retained by the Kansas CiCty, Kas., branch of the N. A. A. C. P. They are Ulysses G. Plummer and David Wilhite, attorneys.

The first person to be called to the witness stand, the girl, who was 16 years old at the time of the alleged rape last August, was asked only routine questions about her personal history.

She was born, she told the court, at Quindaro, Kas., and moved to White Church, Kas., on rural route No. 2 at the age of six years. She has lived there since and attended the White Church elementary school to the eighth grade. She is now in the ninth grade at Northeast Junior high school.

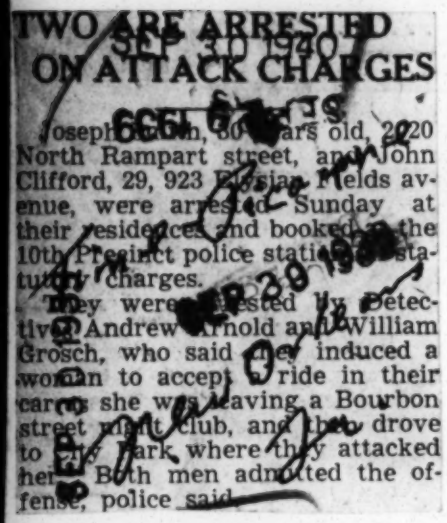
She told of starting to work in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hutchings in July, 1939, and the prosecutor sketched in the background of her activities up to the night of August 2, 1939, when McCrady, allegedly forced his entrance into the home where she was taking care of the Hutchings' neighbor's two small boys.

When the attorney asked the girl to tell in her "own words," just how the man forced her into submission when he took advantage of her, the young girl burst into tears and was unable to go on with her testimony. She left the witness stand in a state of almost uncontrollable hysteria.

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE: ATTACKS BY WHITES

LOUISIANA

6541



TWO ARE ARRESTED ON ATTACK CHARGES

SEP 30 1940

Joseph [illegible], 30 years old, 2020 North Rampart street, and John Clifford, 29, 923 Elysian Fields avenue, were arrested Sunday at their residences and booked at the 10th Precinct police station on statutory charges.

They were arrested by Detectives Andrew Arnold and William Grosch, who said they induced a woman to accept a ride in their cars as she was leaving a Bourbon street night club, and then drove to City Park, where they attacked her. Both men admitted the offense, police said.

Police Seek White, Kidnapper of Girl. 9

SEP 14 1940

BALTIMORE

Northern District police were still searching, Thursday, for a mysterious young white man, who they said kidnapped 9-year-old Beatrice Beasley of 3203 Barclay Street on Wednesday evening and made indecent advances to her while holding her captive for approximately an hour.

Shortly after she had been released, however, police rushed the girl to Provident Hospital, where she was examined by Dr. H. Lydner, of the staff, who reported that she bore no evidence of an attempted criminal assault.

According to Northern police, the girl was picked up about 8 p.m., Wednesday, at the intersection of Brentwood Avenue and Thirty-second Street, while in the company of Robert, 8, and Charles Marshall, 11, of 3118 Barclay Street.

Gave Girl Dollar Bill

Police state that the white man drove up in a 1940 model coupe, gave Robert two cents and Charles one cent, and persuaded Beatrice to get in the car with him, telling her he would get some change at a nearby store and give her some money.

Following this, the man is said to have driven the girl to Thirty-third Street and Abell Avenue, and after a period of indecent advances, later released her at Thirty-second Street and Barclay after giving her a dollar bill.

A description of the man, as given Northern police, is: 25 to 30 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches in height, 130 pounds, full face, light hair, combed straight back; light grey suit and light felt hat with black band.

Police state that Sam Marshall, 3118 Barclay Street, who operates a snowball stand in the rear of that address, told them a white man answering the description of the accused man, bought snowballs for three young girls at his stand the evening before.

He said Beatrice was one of the girls, and the white man told him to give the change of two cents to her.

LYNCHING - 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

MICHIGAN

6543

Young Married Woman, 17 Assaulted by White Man

Amsterdam News
New York, N.Y.

DETROIT.—A 17-year-old married girl suffered contusion of the face as the result of an assault by a middle-aged white man who had immoral intentions and struck her when she resented his approach.

SEP 28 1940

The girl, Elizabeth Harris, of 3508 Scotten avenue, disbarked from a street car at Scotten and Michigan avenues at 3:40 a. m. Sunday morning. She was returning home from Delray, a Detroit suburb, where she is employed in a beer garden. As she passed under a viaduct she was accosted by an unknown white man who asked her to "go out with him." When she refused he knocked her down. The man escaped on foot.

Elizabeth was treated at Receiving Hospital where her condition was reported as being only temporarily serious.

LYNCHINGS*- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

MISSISSIPPI

6544

Mississippian Gets Life In Attack Case

MAGNOLIA, MISS., April 9.—(AP)—Sam Bacot, 22, of Summit, charged with criminal attack of a 19-year-old McComb, Miss., girl, changed his plea from innocent to guilty at his trial here today and a jury gave him punishment at life imprisonment.

Owen McCormick, 24, also of Summit, jointly charged, previously had been convicted in the case and given a similar term.

A new trial granted Claiborne Blackwell, 28, on a charge of attempted criminal attack, was fixed to open here tomorrow. His previous trial ended in a mistrial.

SUSPECT IN ATTACK HELD IN MISSISSIPPI

Man Seized By Highway Policemen Near Nellieburg

Special to The Commercial Appeal

MERIDIAN, Miss., Aug. 10.—Henry Hicks, 38, wanted for an alleged attack Friday morning on a 12-year-old girl near her home at Suqualena, was captured by Highway Patrolmen A. B. Ruffin and Raymond Harris, near Nelliesburg about 7 o'clock Friday night.

Hicks was placed in Lauderdale County Jail. Hicks, who later said his real name is Henry Miller, also said his home is in Missouri, near Poplar Bluff.

"I did not know what I was doing," he told officers. "I have nervous spells. I left Missouri because of trouble with my wife. I was in pail three days at that timbe. The house burned."

Feeling in the Suqualena neighborhood wa ssaid to be intense. Quite a number armed themselves with shotguns and helped in the search for the assailant.

The grand jury will convene Monday to investigate the Hicks case.

LYNCHINGS - 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

MISSOURI

6545

WHITE YOUTHS HELD IN RAVISHING WAITRESS

Pair Identified & Held On Rape Charge

Ruth Jones, 31-year-old waitress residing at 2932 Lucas avenue, reported that she was ravished by two white men in an alley in the rear of 2641 Locust street early Tuesday. She was conveyed to Phillips Hospital.

Later police arrested Robert Childers, 23, 1940 Wright street and Thaycel Allison, 21, 3194 Westminster avenue, at their home and they admitted the crime.

The arrests were brought about through tracing of an automobile license number given to police by Mrs. Jones. The license led to a 1935 model DeSoto sedan, belonging to Childers. Under questioning he admitted raping Mrs. Wright at the point of a pistol and stated that Allison, with whom he had been out drinking also committed a like offense. Both men are waiters.

The pair were identified at the station by Mrs. Jones. They were also identified by Annie Eaves, 37 (white), 4438 McPherson avenue, as having lured her in the car February 28, on the pretense of driving her home, and forcing her to accompany them to the railroad yards at Theresa and Clark avenue, where they raped her.

Mrs. Jones told police she was on the way to work at the Square Deal Restaurant, 2113 Market street about 4:50 a. m. when a machine pulled up and the driver asked her if she wanted to make a dollar and when she tried to walk away, he got out and grabbed her and put his hand over her mouth and then struck her with his hand as she struggled. The second man got out of the car and they forced her into the machine. They then drove her to the alley where they raped her at the point of a pistol. After the act they put her out of the car and drove away. As the car pulled off, she snatched a handkerchief which was over the license plate and took the number.

ANXIOUS TO FACE ASSAULT CHARGES

8-10-40 Courier Pittsburgh

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Aug. 8. (ANP)—Charles Ford, accused of a criminal attack on a Cole county farm woman, was arraigned before Circuit Judge Sam Blair Saturday. The court told Ford that it was not necessary to plead guilty or not guilty until he had time to consult an attorney.

"I have no money to hire a lawyer but I want a trial just as soon as I can get it," Ford said. "The court will appoint competent counsel," the judge replied, "and you will not have to pay them."

Judge Blair then named Attys Charles Seibold, S. B. Attwood and Robert S. Cobb. Cobb is the only Negro attorney in Cole county and is also counsel for the local branch, NAACP. The case will probably be called during the October term of court. At a former preliminary hearing, the courtroom was crowded but there was no demonstration.

White Man Released of Rape Charge

St. Louis Argus St. Louis, Mo.

OCT 26 1940

Says He Gave Her Money to Keep Quiet

Patrolman Frank Mack of the Central District observed three young colored girls come out of the side door of a white rooming house at 909a S. 4th street Monday about 1:30 a.m. and captured one of them. At first she told him that she was visiting a woman friend and the officer started back to the door with her and was met by a white man who gave conflicting statements.

Says He Assaulted Her

He placed them under arrest and enroute to the station apprehended the two who ran away at 11th and Chouteau avenue.

At the station the man revealed his identity as Glen Clemens, 50, a laborer, while the girls were found to be two 17 year old domestics and a 14 year old student. They gave their addresses in the 1800 block, on Linden and Carr streets.

St. Louis Argus

One of the 17-year-old girls told officers the white man had lured her to his room August 17, telling her any time she needed money to come and see him. She stated that he made advances to her and when she tried to resist him he tore off her clothes and forced her to have relations with him, after which he gave her $3.50 telling her to keep quiet. September 30 she stated that the man repeated the act. The other two girls stated that it was their first visit to Clemen's room and he had made no improper advances to them.

Warrant Refused

The accuser was conveyed to Phillips Hospital where a doctor pronounced her suffering from alleged rape. Clemens denied the allegations, but he was booked on charges of suspected of rape and contribution to the delinquency of a minor.

Mo.

Tuesday, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney John Swanson refused to issue warrants on the charges, but stated that a warrant for common assault would be taken under advisement.

3 Girls Held

Two sisters and another girl, all minors (14-17 years old) living on Compton Hill were confined at the children's building Wednesday after officers observed them stop a white man driving an automobile on 21st street between Lucas avenue and Delmar boulevard about 11:50 p.m. The man, who asked that his name be withheld, stated they asked him if he wanted to have a good time. The trio were booked on vagrancy, wandering and tramping. All stated they had no occupation.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

NORTH CAROLINA

6546

WHITE MAN GETS 15 YEARS IN ATTACK ON GIRL, 16

Charged with attempted criminal assault upon a sixteen-year-old Negro girl during the early part of January, John H. Davis a white married man living in the Massey Hill section here, pleaded guilty before Superior Judge A. Hall Johnson last week and was given a sentence of fifteen years in the state penitentiary.

Davis' conviction was the outgrowth of a court battle waged in the girl's behalf by the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

NORTH CAROLINA

6547

Attack Brings White Man A 15-Year Term

Lures Lass From Home By Promise Of Job For Her

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.—John H. Davis, white resident of Massey Hill, was sentenced to 15 years in prison by Judge A. H. Johnson in the Superior Court, Friday, after he entered a plea of guilty to attempted assault on Miss Mary Poole, 16.

Davis was originally charged with criminal assault, but the state accepted the attempt plea.

Miss Poole and her mother, Mrs Elizabeth Poole, of Hillsboro Street. testified that Davis lured the young girl from her home on the pretext of hiring her as a nurse girl for his wife.

DRIVES INTO WOODS

According to testimony, Miss Poole left in a car with the man. Instead of taking the young girl to his home, the witnesses said, Davis drove her into some woods on the Wilmington Road and [illegible] the attack.

Following the crime, Davis abandoned Miss Poole in the woods and drove off, throwing a change of clothes she carried from the car, it was testified.

After being released the abused girl telephoned her mother, who reported the affair to the police station. Investigating police found the girl's cast-away clothing in the woods. Mrs. Poole stated.

White Farmer Sentenced In Attack Case

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C.—Charged with criminally assaulting a 16-year-old girl, Mary Poole, after persuading her, on the pretext of employing her as a nurse for his wife, to leave her home and accompany him in his car, J. H. Davis, white farmer, was convicted here Tuesday of the lesser offense of attempted assault, and given a prison sentence of 15 years.

Davis was charged in the indictment returned against him of actual commission of the assault, but when his case was called for trial, he entered a plea of guilty of attempted assault, which the State agreed to accept.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

OKLAHOMA

6548

NEGRO GIRL, 13 MOLESTED BY WHITE MAN, 76.

Enid, Okla.- Mary Davis, 13 year old Negro girl, was arrested last week and placed in jail for the alleged theft of $38 after a complaint had been filed by M.J. Calvert, 76 white pensioner. Investigation by the Negro Civic League resulted in the filing of charges against Calvert in the county attorney's office charging him with immoral relationship with the child.

According to information secured by a committee named by Carl C. Holt, chairman of the Civic league, which included Rev. O.R. Short, pastor of the Taberbacle Baptist Church, Mrs. Lottie Keaton, Mrs. Emma Backstrom, Mr. A. Dunn and Mr. Robert King, Jr., Calvert had been enticing the little girl to his home by giving her pennies and fruit. Once inside the house he became intimate with her, the girl said, after exposing himself in the most vulgar fashion. This type of conduct had been in progression since before Christmas in 1939.

On one of these visits to Calvert's home, Mary Davis allegedly removed $38 from his table. On the way home she stopped at the house of a friend, who counted the money, took $18 of it and advised her to give the remainder to her mother and burn the purse.

After missing the money Calvert called the police who later arrested the girl and her mother and the two were placed in jail,

The girl was about to be sent to Taft and only the additiona; evidence secured prevented this.

The case is scheduled for a hearing this week in county court.

Black Dispatch
March 26, 1940
Oklahoma City, Okla.

WHITE FARMER HELD BY OKLAHOMA GRAND JURY ON $1,500 BOND

Courier 3-9-40

Pittsburgh Pa

NOWATA, Okla., July 25—(By Viola Drew Louis for ANP)—One of the most disgraceful bargains that could be entered into was brought to light here last week when the father of a 13-year-old girl revealed that the girl's brother had sold her honor to his white boss for a pitiful sum of money. The "boss," a white farmer, is being held to the grand jury on $1,500 bond.

The incident happened on or about June 23, according to the girl's father, when Claude Harmon, a farmer of the Big Creek Community near here, asked his Negro farm hand to get him a woman of the Negro race, for whom he, the farm hand, would be paid. The farm hand drove to his home and got his younger sister on the pretext of taking her with him to a nearby store.

After driving a distance from the house he picked up Harmon and proceeded in the direction of a wooded section. Two colored men in the vicinity saw the car, and followed it into the woods. From a short distance away they saw the white man having sexual relations with the girl, who was crying, and urging her not to tell about it.

The men, carrying guns, started to shoot, but hesitated for fear of hitting the girl. They rescued her, and were able to identify the farmer when he was arrested. The brother is still at large.

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Attacks Girl

After driving a distance from the house he picked up Harmon and proceeded in the direction of a wooded section. Two colored men in the vicinity saw the car, and followed it into the woods. From a short distance away they saw the white man criminally attacking the girl who was crying, and urging her not to tell about it.

The men, carrying guns, started to shoot, but hesitated for fear of hitting the girl. They rescued her and were able to identify the farmer when he was arrested. The brother is still at large.

SELLS SISTER'S HONOR TO BOSS FOR PITTANCE

Bill

1-26-40

Farmer Arrested In Revolting Case

Chicago Ill.

By VIOLA DREW LEWIS

Charge Youth Sold Honor Of Sister, 13, for Mere Pittance

Journal & Guide
7-27-40
Norfolk, Va.

By VIOLA D. LEWIS

NOWATA, Okla.—(ANP)—One of the most disgraceful bargains that could be entered into was brought to light here last week when the father of a 13-year old girl revealed that the girl's brother had sold her honor to his white boss for a pitiful sum of money.. The "boss," a white farmer. is being held for grand jury action on $1,500 bond.

The incident happened on or about June 23, according to the girl's father, when Claude Harmon a farmer of the Big Crook Community near here, asked his Negro farm hand to get him a woman of the Negro race, for whom he, the farm hand, would be paid. The farm hand drove to his home and got his younger sister on the pretext of taking her with him to a nearby store.

After driving a distance from the house he picked up Harmon and proceeded in the direction of a wooded section. Two colored men in the vicinity saw the car, and followed it into the woods. From a short distance away they saw the white man assaulting the girl, who was crying. He urged her not to tell about it.

The men, carrying guns, started to shoot, but hesitated for fear of hitting the girl. They rescued her and were able to identify the farmer when he was arrested. The brother is still at large.

N. A. A. C. P. To Prosecute White Rapist

Black Dispatch
7-27-40
Oklahoma City, Okla.

NOWATA, Okla.—The State Conference of Branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was instrumental in getting the raping of a 13-year-old Negro girl by Claude Harmon, white, after the girl's brother, an employee of Harmon, had secured her to satisfy the white man's lust, in return for a paltry sum.

Harmon, who was seen in his obscene act by two Negroes, was later arrested and is being held for trial with his bond set at $1,500. A special prosecutor will be designated by the State Conference of Branches of the N. A. A. C. P. to try the case. The State Conference investigating committee, headed by Atty. T. Hall, included John Tyler, Atty. Jesse Deadmon and Cornelius Gibbs, all of Tulsa.

The incident happened on or about June 23, according to the girl's father, when Claude Harmon, a farmer of the Big Creek Community near here, asked his Negro farm hand to get him a woman of the Negro race for whom he, the farm hand, would be paid. The farm hand drove to his home and got his younger sister on the pretext of taking her with

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The men, carrying guns, started to shoot, but hesitated for fear of hitting the girl. They rescued her, and were able to identify the farmer when he was arrested. The brother is still at large.

Sells Sister's Honor To His White Boss

Plaindealer
7-26-40
Kansas City, Kansas

NOWATA, Okla., July 26 (By Viola Drew Lewis for ANP) — One of the most disgraceful bargains that could be entered into was brought to light here last week when the father of a 13-year-old girl revealed that the girl's brother had sold her honor to his white boss for a pitiful sum of money. The 'boss', a white farmer, is being held to the grand jury on $1,500 bond.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

SOUTH CAROLINA

6549

Tears Drive Hubby Mad

Waits on Porch with Shotgun Until Whites Drive Up in Car

BUFFALO, S.C.—Following his wife's charges that she had been attacked by a white man whom she did not know, James Glenn, a tenant farmer, shot John H Gregory, white, to death in the yard of the former's home here Thursday evening.

Glenn surrendered to police about an hour after the shooting and was removed to the unannounced jail.

At a coroner's inquest on Friday, he was held responsible for the 42-year-old white textile worker's death and Coroner George Nolan announced that a murder warrant would be issued.

Wife Released

Glenn's wife, Mrs. Beulah Glenn, was arrested as a material witness, but was not asked to testify and was released after the inquest.

Clifford Means, Mack Lipscomb and Lewis Gage, eyewitnesses to the slaying, were the only witnesses called. Their testimony indicated that Mrs. Glenn's attacker came to her home, earlier in the day, broke down the door when she refused to open it and threatened her with a knife.

Chased Her into Field

When she ran from the house, it was said, the white man chased her into a field, where she either fell or was knocked down, leaned over her and was frightened away when one of Mrs. Glenn's children began beating him on the head and attracted a neighbor's attention.

Mrs. Glenn returned to the house in tears, the witnesses said, called her husband inside and told him of her experience, whereupon he returned to the porch with his shotgun and sat in silence until a car drove into the yard.

In the car were Gregory and Mack Reynolds, also white. Glenn allegedly left the porch, fired a shotgun charge into Gregory's face and clubbed Reynolds with the gun.

LYNCHING- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

TENNESSEE

6550

CRIMINAL ATTACK LAID TO PRISONER

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 9—(AP)—Sheriff Hazen Knies said tonight that charges of criminal assault had been filed against Roy A. Walden, about 35, of Bearden, in the kidnaping of 8-year-old Nancy Ruth Sorrell, living on the outskirts of Knoxville.

The sheriff said that the child, from a hospital cot, had identified Walden as her attacker. Object of a wide search, the little girl stumbled across the road in front of her home about noon today and into the arms of her mother.

City and county police, neighbors, and relatives had been frantically searching for the child since shortly before 4 a.m., when her parents reached home and found the front door open, the child gone.

The father operates a cafe near the home.

Officers said that Walden denied the charges.

9-6-40

Park police last night launched a manhunt in Rock Creek Park after a young colored man had attempted a criminal attack on an 11-year-old girl.

The girl and a playmate were walking on a trail near Pierce Mill, she said, when the assailant stepped out from behind a tree and seized her. The playmate fled, and the girl managed to escape a few minutes later.

Police said the child had not been harmed.

Held In $1,000 Bail As Girl Charges Rape

A well known West Philadelphis contractor was held in $1,000 bail for court last Wednesday on charges of criminally assaulting his 14-year-old stepdaughter.

The accused is Herman Lane, 40, of 835 North Lee street, who was arrested last week and given a preliminary hearing before Judge Brown at Domestic Relations Court, 1810 Race street.

Lane was held despite the plea of Rev. A. Little, 4515 Parrish street, who testified as to the alleged bad character of the girl.

Robert N. C. Nix, who represented Lane, refused to permit his client to testify. Nix argued that Lane, who denied the accusations, was a substantial citizen who had a fine record in the community.

Colored Youth Grabs Girl, 11, In D.C. Park

Washington Post
Washington D.C.

Child Seized as She Walks With Chum; Manhunt Launched

LYNCHINGS- 1940
RAPE BY WHITES

TENNESSEE

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TWO ARE INDICTED ON ATTACK CHARGE

(From Yesterday's Final Edition)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., June 6—(AP)—The Knox County Grand Jury indicted Ernest Dixon, 22, and John Dockery, 18, today on charges of criminally attacking a 22-year-old deaf-mute girl.

Sheriff J. Carroll Cate said Dixon had admitted ravishing the girl while Dockery held her on her companion. The alleged attack occurred Tuesday night and the youths were arrested yesterday.

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Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 3, 1940

Crusaders Without A Cause

DR. F. D. PATTERSON, of Tuskegee Institute, reports that during the first six months of 1940, there were no lynchings in the United States—that is, none which came to the attention of the authorities.

During the last six months of 1939, there were no lynchings. The last recorded American lynching took place in the spring of 1939, and thus we have seen more than a year go by without one. It seems that in the last half of 1939, a Georgia negro was reported to have been lynched, but an investigation proved that he was perfectly safe, in sound mind and body, and utterly unaware of his death—so the record for those six months had to be made clean.

This is a magnificent showing, and we trust that it will be maintained during the remainder of 1940, giving us the first calendar year in our history without a lynching.

We are worried, however, by one thing. In many ways, we are solicitous of such men as Gavagan, Wagner and Van Nuys. They are crusaders in every sense of the word, and surely this world has too few crusaders to risk the loss of any. Federal anti-lynching legislation is a chief stock-in-trade of these gentlemen. No one cause with which they are associated has done so much for them politically, especially in the darker recesses of their bailiwicks. But now we have the appalling spectacle of needing no federal anti-lynching legislation, because there are no longer any lynchings to legislate against, and we are worried over what will happen to these gentlemen now that they have been turned into crusaders without a cause.

These gentlemen have resorted to a rather clever device at the last minute. They have begun to say that, after all, the South is not free of lynchings; that the South still has lynchings in abundance, but that they just don't get reported! We doubt, however, whether even the most gullible of their constituents will fall for this device. In the past, these gentlemen have pinned all their faith on the Tuskegee report; they have shouted up and down their states and districts about it, and they have orated before Congress about it. Thus they will now have difficulty in tossing it ingloriously out of the window just because it no longer is politically expedient to use it.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
July 7, 1940

No Lynchings Yet

THE first six months of 1940 have passed without a lynching to blot the record, according to a statement just issued by the Tuskegee institute, which has kept records on lynching for many years.

F. D. Patterson, president of the negro educational institution, says:

"According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

May this record continue and 1940 be a banner year for the nation, a year without a lynching.

Last year only three lynchings were recorded, two of them charged to Florida, though only one was properly classified as a lynching.

It is particularly fortunate this record is being made at a time when a federal anti-lynching bill is pending in congress. Some might credit the lack of lynchings to the bill. On the other hand some proponents of the bill now charge that lynchings are kept under cover, but it is pretty difficult for this to happen in these days.

The record more than likely is due to the advance and the spread of the educational work being done by the Association of Southern Women to Prevent Lynching, members of which have stripped the falsities from lynchings and have brought such pressure from citizens upon public officials that they know it is better to uphold the law and halt mob rule than to submit to hoodlums and incur the wrath of the majority of the electorate.

This continued work to show the folly and the injustices of lynch rule and to back up the sheriffs and other peace officers in performance of their duties will wipe out lynching permanently. No federal statute is needed, or would be nearly so effective. The remedy is in our own hands.

Valdosta, Ga., Daily Times
July 3, 1940

A PERFECT HALF-YEAR RECORD

The report from the Department of Records and Research of Tuckegee Institute showing that there was not a single lynching in the United States during the first six months of 1940 is further evidence that there is no need for federal anti-lynching legislation. It is also evidence of the fact that the forces of law and order are slowly, but surely, gaining the upper hand over lawlessness and mob violence.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the Institute began keeping records has the first six months of any year passed without a lynching.

In recent years there has been a gradual decline in the number of such happenings. Eight lynchings took place in 1937, there were six in 1938 and there were only 3 in 1939.

This is a gradual and consistent improvement and it is an improvement which must be traced to greater respect for law and is a tribute to the effectiveness of education. It is only through education that respect for law and order is engendered. As the people learn that the courts and officers are diligent in their searching out those who are guilty of crime and as the people learn that criminals will be punished through the usual and regular processes of the courts, there is created greater respect for the courts and for the agencies of decency.

It is to be hoped that the remainder of 1940 will see a record that will equal the first six months of the year in acts of mob violence. It is up to the law-abiding citizens to see that this record is maintained.

Wilmington, N. C. News
July 8, 1940

No Lynchings

Americans can receive with sober pride the latest report of the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute. The institute, which has kept careful records of mob violence for many years, has announced that there has not been a single lynching in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

This clean slate is what we had hoped for and expected in light of the rapid decline in crimes of this sort over the past decade. Devoted men and women laboring in the states where lynching has been most prevalent in the past have gradually aroused people to a full realization of the shameful nature of mob violence. State and local governments have cooperated as never before in protecting prisoners in their custody from the fury of angry mobs.

But the record is particularly welcome to all thoughtful Americans at this time because of the sorry state into which so much of the rest of the world has been plunged. We have seen the rapid rise of intolerance, racial prejudice and persecution in many countries of the Old World. We are living in an era when scant value is placed on human life, when the old moralities have been submerged, when governments have adopted ruthlessness as their basic policy. Angry, unthinking emotion has nearly swept tolerance aside.

We in this country can hardly hope to escape entirely from this contagion. Already we find many people with tightly-shut minds, men and women suspicious of their neighbors, many people angrily intolerant of any views but their own. It is always difficult in periods of world upheaval for people, even in neutral nations, to keep from acting like a mob.

But, in this one instance at least, democratic Americans have held true to their own ideals. It is something to be thankful for. And it is to be hoped that the Tuskegee Institute will be able to write the same proud phrase "no lynchings" in its report for many years to come.

Fernandina, Fla. Leader
July 5, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS THROUGH JUNE THIS YEAR

Tuskegee Institute, located in an Alabama town of the same name, conducts a department which endeavors to record all lynchings and releases the same to newspapers every six months. With the close of June we have received the following report, "According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Tuskegee Institute is a school for negroes, hence their intense interest in lynching. This interest is, of course, fostered by the fact that by far the greater part of the lynchings which take place throughout the country is confined to the negro race.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
July 6, 1940

ONE LYNCHING

It is entirely possible that the miscreant and base murderer who set the bomb in the British building at the World's Fair in New York, where were innocent and helpless women and children of all ages and conditions (and perhaps all nationalities), had nothing at all against the policemen and detectives who were doing nothing more harmful than to protect the public. Yet, such fatal results are apt to follow such blind locating of deadly explosives. It is not only indiscriminate and the results uncontrollable; it is cowardly and indicates abandoned, reckless and diabolical mind. It shows not revenge upon or murder of one hated person, but a criminal disregard, a wholesale deviltry against mankind in general.

The society for the advancement of colored people has a controversy with Tuskegee as to the accuracy of its figures respecting lynching in the United States; and people may dispute the right and wrong of it, but if they find that bomb-assassin who set the bomb at the World's Fair, a complete lynching will be in order, overlooked or approved.

Who tried to stab Britain in the back this time?

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 7, 1940

Lynchings Disappearing

SAD news (for them) comes to the politically-minded members of the Congress in the July 1 report from Tuskegee that there was not a lynching during the first six months of 1940.

This report, taken in connection with previous reports showing that lynching in the South has become practically a thing of the past, takes all the ground from under the feet of those who have been advocating a so-called anti-lynch bill purely as an appeal to negro politicians in the North.

Where there are no lynchings there is no justification for federal interference, even for political purposes.

Meanwhile, there is cause for gratification on the part of the great body of law abiding Southerners who have sought so earnestly to put an end to mob violence. In cooperation with zealous public officials, they have performed a splendid task.

NO LYNCHINGS?

Tuskegee Institute, as has been its custom for many years, under date of June 30, sends out the following release with regard to lynching for the first six months of 1940, with a request from President F. D. Patterson that it be published "in full exactly as it has been transmitted":

"Dear Sir:

According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
President.

It is altogether fitting and proper that Tuskegee Institute should be more guarded from now on in what it says with regard to lynchings, inasmuch as its research department largely depends upon newspaper clippings for information about mob murders. On at least one occasion, as we recollect, after a Tuskegee release had been published, a previously unreported lynching was discovered.

It is said on good authority that there exists a conspiracy in lynch-ridden areas of the country to stop publishing the "score" in newspapers. This, for the purpose of quieting the demand for the passage of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law

Note how silent newspapers have been with regard to the death of Elbert Williams at Brownsville, Tenn. The body of this colored man was fished up from a nearby river on June 23. The man had been active in a campaign to get Negroes qualified to vote in that county. A condition of terrorism exists now in Brownsville, and there is every reason to believe that Williams came to his death at the hands of a mob.

You have not as yet heard nor will you likely hear of any action upon the part of the state authorities, seeking to bring to justice the killers of Elbert Williams. And yet the nature of the crime and the conditions now prevailing at Brownsville should cause state authorities to give the matter at least as much attention as is given to running down persons engaged in selling liquor.

The conclusion of this whole matter is the Tuskegee report on lynchings may be and doubtless is wholly in error and misleading. We need a Federal Anti-Lynching Law, enforceable by the U. S. Department of Justice, to get to the bottom of mob murders committed in areas where state and local authorities do not enforce the laws and where their faithlessness is covered up by a venal press.

Durant, Miss. News
July 4, 1940

1940 Without Lynchings

During the first six months of 1940 there were no lynchings recorded in the United States. We believe this record is the best recorded in many years.

It is to be desired that the record be maintained for the remaining months of 1940.

It would be difficult to say whether the record made is caused by better law observance on the part of citizens and law enforcement on the part of officials or whether the wholesale slaughter of human lives in Europe has caused people to be kept busy with worrying about their future so much that they do not have time for a comparatively small thing like a lynching.

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Charlotte, N. C., News
July 5, 1940

Clean Bill

Country Escapes Lynching Despite Hate Campaigns

According to the report of Dr. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, there were no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year.

Before we conclude too much from that, however, it is just as well to remember that there was no lynching in the first six months of 1939, either. But by the end of the year the score was three, two of which were accounted for by Florida and one by Mississippi.

Nevertheless, when all this is said, the outlook for the ultimate complete disappearance of lynching is now increasingly hopeful. The three last year compared with six in 1939, eight in 1937, and twenty in 1935. Moreover, the period in which there have been just three lynchings actually extends from Oct. 11, 1938, down to the present — nearly 21 months.

How great an advance that is can be measured when we remember that in 1892 the score was 165, mostly Negroes lynched in the South, and that even in the 1920's the score regularly ran in the neighborhood of twenty each year.

What is perhaps most encouraging about the matter is that the record for this year and last was set up in face of increasing activity on the part of the Ku Klux Klan and organized campaigns by demagogues to stir up racial hatred. There is the chief danger that the tendency may again be reversed. But at least we can take the comfort that such campaigns have so far not been effective.

Brevard, N. C., Transylvania Times
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings During First Half of 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, of Tuskeegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940.

This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Boonville Miss. Independent July 11, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS
(Meridian Star)

The first six months of 1940 passed without a single lynching being reported to the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute.

Only in one previous year—1938—has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years. Eight occured in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

It would be a great thing for the South if the entire year of 1940 could pass without a single instance of "mob rule."

Such a record would effectively spike the guns of Northern politicians who have sought to push through congress an anti-lynching bill that would not only invade state's rights but serve as an insult to the law-abiding, intelligent people of the South who have worked for years (successfully, too) to eliminate this great evil.

Ocala, Fla., Star
July 4, 1940

Tuskegee Reports No Lynchings in '40

TUSKEGEE, Ala. July 2 — Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United Staes in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

La Fayette, La., Advertiser
July 9, 1940

~~Lynch~~-Free Six Months

In the first half of 1940 not a single lynching was reported in the United States, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute says. In all the many years the Institute has been keeping this horrible but important score there has been but one other year, 1938, in the first six months of which there was no lynching.

There were eight lynchings in 1937, six in 1938 and three last year. It seems probable that this country will have a year without a lynching before long. This may be that year. Certainly American civilization has made some real strides since the '90s, when lynchings occurred at the rate of two or three a week, and since 1933 when there were 28 lynchings in this country.

Several forces have been at work reducing the number of lynchings. Analyzing them and assigning to them their proper relative importance would be a fascinating but difficult job for a corps of experts in this field of sociology.

Rome, Ga. News-Tribune
July 12, 1940

Got To Live

(Charleston News and Courier)

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute publishes that there has been no lynching in the United States in 1940. Tuskegee is the best known negro college in the United States and is in Alabama. Immediately after the publication, an officer of a negro society in New York announced that white people have been lynched in the South in the last six months. If Walter White's society cannot maintain an agitation about lunching and anti-lynching bills, why should it exist? Who would pay dues to it? To the credit of the negroes of New York it should be said by the way, that they are not members of the unchartered corporations of that town that conduct the busines of murder for hire on a big business scale. Walter White's society must have an issue or it can't live—and it may be that Senator "Bob" Wagner can't live without it.

St. Augustine, Fla., Record
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced yesterday.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Free Press
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings in U. S. In First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3 (AP).—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
July 5, 1940

No Lynchings Recorded So Far This Year

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Ft. Valley, Ga., Leader-Tribune
July 4, 1940

No Lychings During First 6 Months 1940

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., there has not been a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Blakeley, Ga., News
July 11, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1940

The first six months of 1940 saw no lynchings in the United States, according to information compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala. The statement was issued by F. D. Patterson, president of the Institute, and released to the press last week.

Leland, Miss. Enterprise
July 5, 1940

No Lynchings During First Half Of 1940

According to a statement received yesterday from T D Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, there were no lynchings reported for the first half of 1940 in the United States. His statement follows:

"According to the information compiled by the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Elberton, Ga., Star
July 5, 1940

No Lynchings Reporter In U. S. For 1940

Tuskeegee, Ala. — Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskeegee Institute, announced Tuesday.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Charlotte, N. C., News
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings in First Half Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP) — Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 3, 1940

Voice of the People

Letters to the Editor

No Lynching In First Six Months of 1940.

Editor, Greensboro Record:

In the following statement you will find the release concerning lynchings for the first six months of 1940. It is my hope that the release will be published in full exactly as it has been transmitted to your office.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, President,
Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

South Pittsburg, Tenn., Hustler
July 11, 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940.

This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Tuskegee, Ala., News
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Commerce, Ga., News
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings for First Six Months of 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
July 5, 1940

No Lynchings Recorded So Far This Year

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Doubtless An Unintentional Omission

IN ITS RECENT release, stating that no lynchings occurred during the first half of 1940, the Tuskegee Institute, the long sentinel on the wall, must have gotten its facts mixed up. Tuskegee has long been the nation's authority and hardly a sparrow fell without its notation. Its accuracy in the past and its fight on the lynching evil have contributed wonderfully toward the breaking up of the evil.

While the four lynchings reported by the NAACP are fully four too many, for the country to get credit for no lynchings at all, only aids in covering up what has been done. Such reports feed fire to the anti-lynching filibusters who rant loud and long up and down the halls of the congress in the effort to show that no such legislation is needed; that the country is stamping it out with its own weight and despairing the efforts of those earnest seeking ones in their efforts to produce legislation for the wiping out of the evil for all time.

Those who do not let up, in spite of the discouragement handed out year after year are to be congratulated for keeping up the fight. Persistency in the long run is bound to win. While the air is full of war and political news, that faithful hand full are on the lynching battlefront, keeping the home fires burning

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Newberry, S. C. Observer
July 5, 1940

CHALKING UP ANOTHER LYNCHING RECORD

Another lynching record has been chalked up in the south's favor. According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research of the Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. That means that we have really learned the lesson that justice, meted out to offenders of our laws, is properly administered in our courts.

* * * *

A glance at any of the club roll books in Newberry will reveal the fact that very few persons have enrolled as yet to vote in the August primary. This means that there will be a rush by most citizens right at the last minute. July is here, and three weeks from today the club roll books will close. It would be well to enroll today before you forget it. The fourth Tuesday in July, which is July 23rd, is the last date. Remember that.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 3, 1940

SIX PERFECT MONTHS

While people in the old world were engaged in the slaughter of life and the destruction of property, for the first six months of 1940 American mobsters were on their very good bevarior. Tuskegee Institute's records say there was no lynching in the United States in that period. This is the first time since lynch records have been kept that the American people have squeezed through a period of six months without fatal mob action against any human being.

It is not only a gratifying record, but it is significant. It means that the American people have strengthened their convictions against the principles of mob action. It means that they are gradually acquiring a more civilized viewpoint about the dignity of man and the dignity of law. It does not mean that we shall not have outbreaks of the lynch spirit in future. No one will deceive himself as to that. But it does mean that we are making progress.

It means also that it is not necessary for congress to impose an anti-lynching law upon the states. The states are vindicating their right and discharging their obligation to maintain steady pressure against mobs.

Oneida, Tenn. News
July 5, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED, 1940

Semi-Annual Report of Tuskegee Institute Received.

Tuskegee Institute reports semi-annually on the number of lunchings reported throughout the United States. For the first time in years the report shows no lynchings for the first half of 1940. The report follows:

June 30, 1940

Dear Editor:

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON, Pres.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings In First Half 1940

Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, writes The Tribune:

"According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, Ala., there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 2, 1940

No 1940 Lynchings In Country To Date

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Rock Hill, S. C. Herald
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings For First Half Of 1940

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute of Alabama, released to the press the following statement on lynchings of 1940: "According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Mobile, Ala. Press
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings Seen In 1st Half of Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 3, 1940

Lynchings 0—A Complete Answer

THE Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute has revealed that "not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940." This record duplicates the six-month period of 1938 when a similar complete absence of lynchings was recorded.

This fact alone is a complete answer to anti-lynching law agitation in Washington or elsewhere. May the record continue to speak in such unanswerable tones.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
July 3, 1940

Perfect Score to Date

Based on news stories and on investigation from persons living in various areas, comes the announcement from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee (Ala.) institute that no lynching occurred in the United States for the first six months of 1940.

That record within itself refutes any agitation for a federal anti-lynching law. Yet such a measure is pending in congress. Left to the states the foul blot of mob violence rearing its head at intervals will be stamped out. The police powers and regulatory laws of states provide the means to abolish lynch law, along with the public conscience fully aroused to its danger and menace to civilization. The design of lynch law advocates in congress is too obvious to delude any intelligent fair-minded person. Mainly its aim is to appease and corral the negro vote.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings So Far This Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939

Cullman, Ala. Democrat
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHING TO DATE

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Pascagoula, Miss. Star
July 5. 1940

No Lynchings In U. S. First Six Months, 1940

The following bulletin has been received from the president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

"F. D. PATTERSON,
"President."

Andalusia, Ala., Star
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings Reported First Six Months of 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the fist six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Albany-Decatur, Ala. Daily
July 3, 1940

There were only three lynchings in the United States last year and NONE during the first half of 1940. Yet there continues a demand in Congress for passage of a federal anti-lynching bill and the wife of a leading federal office holder composes a ballad about "They hanged him to the highest pine" or something. Can there longer be any doubt that this lynching agitation is for political purposes only?

Florence, Ala., Herald
July 5, 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 4, 1940

Tuskegee Reports No Lynchings

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—According to the information compiled in the department of research and records of Tuskegee institute, there is no record of a lynching during the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Gadsden, Ala., Times
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings For Six Months, Report

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 3.—(AP) Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Troy, Ala., Messenger
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings For First Quarter, Report Says

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute reports that "according to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
July 5, 1940

No Lynching In U. S. First Half This Year

Tuskegee, Ala., July 5.—(Special).—Tuskegee Institute reported it had no record of a lynching in the United States in the first half of 1940.

Sumter, S. C., Daily Item
July 2. 1940

Lynchings Remain At Lowest Point

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 3, 1940

HALF YEAR PASSES WITHOUT LYNCHING

No lynching was recorded in the United States during the first six months of 1940, according to information compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, President F. D. Patterson announced. The information is based on news releases and investigations by residents of various areas, Patterson said.

Montgomery, Ala., Advertiser
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings Reported In U. S. Since 1939

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—The first half of 1940 passed without a lynching being reported in the United States, the department of records, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

This was in keeping with the trend of recent years. Eight persons lost their lives throughout the country by lynchings in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala. —(AP)— Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Miami, Fla. Herald
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings

FROM President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute comes the following report: "According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in the area."

The South will be happy to have this information from the famous Tuskegee Institute.

The Herald relays it to the bloc of congressmen who for political purposes would enact the iniquitous anti-lynching bill now pending.

Fayetteville, Tenn., News
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings Are Recorded To Date

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

No Lynchings Reported In U. S. Since 1939

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—The first half of 1940 passed without a lynching being reported in the United States, the department of records, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

This was in keeping with the trend of recent years. Eight persons lost their lives throughout the country by lynchings in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Four Lynchings Cited In Refuting Tuskegee Report

The following telegram refuting Tuskegee Institute's statement that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940 was sent to Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People July 3:

"WE ARE INEXPRESSIBLY SHOCKED BY TUSKEGEE'S STATEMENT THAT NO LYNCHINGS OCCURRED DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF NINETEEN FORTY. ON MARCH SECOND SARAH RAWLS AND BENTON FORD WERE FLOGGED TO DEATH BY A MOB AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA. FIVE DAYS LATER IKE GASTON WAS BEATEN TO DEATH BY MOB IN SAME CITY. ON JUNE TWENTY-SECOND ELBERT WILLIAMS, NEGRO, WAS LYNCHED AT BROWNSVILLE, TENN., FOR ATTEMPTING TO EXERCISE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO REGISTER IN ORDER TO VOTE IN NINETEEN FORTY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. SUCH INACCURATE STATEMENTS BY TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE DO IRREPARABLE HARM BY CAUSAGAINST MOB MURDER TO RELAX AND BY GIVING ENEMIES OF ANTI-LYNCHING BILL AMMUNITION FOR SABOTAGE OF SUCH LEGISLATION."

(Signed) "Walter White, Sec."

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN- JUNE

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Burlington, N. C., Times-News
July 3, 1940

SHOULD MAINTAIN IT

THERE IS NO record of a lynching in the United States for the first half of this year, according to records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama.

This record convinces us that it is better to educate out such undesirable practices rather than to try to legislate them out.

The origin of this "mob plan" to deal with persons believed guilty of violent crime, and even for lesser crime, was during a period when the courts were neither so well organized nor accessible as they are at the present. It survived too long.

Lynching always was done in the frenzied heat of mass temper, quickly and without giving any thought to whatever, if any, mitigating circumstances might have been involved. It was the wrong way to mete out justice.

We have no assurance, of course, that another lynching will not occur in the United States. No doubt there will be recurrences, but the trend is shown definitely to be in the direction of eliminating this violent method of execution without trial.

In general the courts are fully capable of reaching a just decision in capital cases before them, and if in the execution of them they err at all it is more likely to be against the defendant instead of in favor of him.

The record tends to prove, also, that the Congress has been right from time to time in refusing to pass drastic anti-lynching legislation, except to the extent that too much valuable time has been whittled away in the discussion of it.

Brunswick, Ga., News
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN U. S. THIS YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Savannah, Ga., Press
July 2, 1940

SIX MONTHS PASS WITHOUT LYNCHING

REPORT IS ISSUED AT TUSKEGEE; CASES DECLINE YEARLY

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2 (AP).—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939.

Atlanta, Ga. Journal
July 2, 1940

Not a Single Lynching In First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced Tuesday.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Hickory, N. C. Record
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

The president of Tuskegee Institute has given out a news release that according to information compiled by the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940.

At a time when brute force is in the saddle throughout a large portion of the world, it is comforting to have proof that here in the United States men have demonstrated greater control over their passions and impulses.

We in America have many things for which to apologize, but it is gratifying to know that mob murder is not at the present time one of them.

Tupelo, Miss. News
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings In 6 Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first half of 1940, Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only once previously, in 1938, has the first six months passed lynchless since the records have been kept.

Hickory, N. C. Record
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN U. S. THIS YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, have the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Shelby, N. C. Star
July 2, 1940

Lynchings Absent First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

The name "cattle" means property, and is related to the word "chattel."

NO 1940 LYNCHINGS

Dear AFRO: According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940.

This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

(Dr.) F. D. PATTERSON
President, Tuskegee Inst.
Tuskegee, Ala.

Greensboro, N. C., Record
July 9, 1940

Toward a Lynchless Year

There is good reason for hoping and for believing that the country is on its way to a completely lynchless year.

A report compiled by the Tuskegee institute's department of records and research, published on this page a few days ago, shows there was not a lynching in the first six months of 1940.

In 1939 there were only three of these crimes, a figure just one-half as large as that for 1938.

A federal anti-lynching bill is still pending in Washington, having passed the house and been reported out by a senate committee by an 11-to-4 vote.

This is a drastic measure that would penalize all of the people of any community in which a lynching occurs. Such a bill, that would inflict penalities upon persons irrespective of guilt or innocence, has no place in the United States.

The record for the first six months of this year may move those who have been agitating the anti-lynching bill to drop it. If the measure is brought up it would, no doubt, give rise to a long and bitter filibuster. There are matters of much more importance demanding the immediate attention of the Congress just now.

Clear Lynching Record

Not one lynching was recorded in the 48 United States during the first six months of 1940, Tuskegee Institute reports.

This is a fine record thus far. It is to be hoped that the last half of 1940 will pass without a lynching to mar a perfect record. Yet before the record is celebrated it will be well to consider just what has happened in this country during the last six months.

Lynchings of the old-fashioned type have virtually disappeared in recent years. One seldom hears of a mob seizing a victim and hanging him or shooting him. But in the South we still have too many "lawful homicides," too many killings by peace officers.

Foes of lynching say that "legal homicide" has taken the place of the lynching mob in some parts of the country and that sometimes fugitives are spirited away by two or three men and never seen again.

The mob technique has changed, the foes of lynching say, but victims still are lynched and the crimes called by no name at all. This may be exaggerated, but it is at least partly true.

It is a healthful sign, however, that lynchings, when and if they occur, no longer are public spectacles in which many persons take part and which still others condone.

There was a time when many persons, North, South, East and West, believed that lynchings occasionally were necessary to maintain "law and order." That time has passed.

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There was a time when many persons, North, South, East and West, believed that lynchings occasionally were necessary to maintain "law and order." That time has passed.

No Lynchings Reported In U. S. Since 1939

By Associated Press

TUSKEGEE, ALA., July 2.—The first half of 1940 passed without a lynching being reported in the United States, the department of records, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

This was in keeping with a trend of recent years, eight persons losing their lives throughout the country by lynchings in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Tuskegee's Lynchless-Year Report Challenged

NEW YORK—Refuting a Tuskegee Institute statement that the first six months of 1940 had been free from lynchings, the NAACP last week wired President F. D. Patterson, of the school, calling attention to four such crimes.

Victims mentioned were Elbert Williams, lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., on June 22, for attempting to qualify as a voter; Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford, both white, flogged to death by a mob in Atlanta, Ga., on March 2, and Ike Gaston, white, similarly slain in Atlanta five days later.

"Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute," the telegram concluded, "do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax, and by giving enemies of antilynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
July 4, 1940

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This is a fine record thus far. It is to be hoped that the last half of 1940 will pass without a lynching to mar a perfect record. Yet before the record is celebrated it will be well to consider just what has happened in this country during the last six months.

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Foes of lynching say that "legal homicide" has taken the place of the lynching mob in some parts of the country and that sometimes fugitives are spirited away by two or three men and never seen again.

The mob technique has changed, the foes of lynching say, but victims still are lynched and the crimes called by no name at all. This may be exaggerated, but it is at least partly true.

It is a healthful sign, however, that lynchings, when and if they occur, no longer are public spectacles in which many persons take part and which still others condone.

There was a time when many persons, North, South, East and West, believed that lynchings occasionally were necessary to maintain "law and order." That time has passed.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 6, 1940

Must Live

The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute publishes that there has been no lynching in the United States in 1940. Tuskegee is the best known negro college in the United States and is in Alabama. Immediately after the publication, an officer of a negro society in New York announced that white people have been lynched in the South in the last six months. If Walter White's society cannot maintain an agitation about lynching and anti-lynching bills, why should it exist? Who would pay dues to it? To the credit of the negroes of New York it should be said, by the way, that they are not members of the unchartered corporations of that town that conduct the business of murder for hire on a big business scale. Walter White's society must have an issue or it can't live—and it may be that Senator "Bob" Wagner can't live without it.

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
July 2, 1940

What New Ruse?

Every time Tuskegee Institute publishes figures about the steady decline in lynchings we are caused to wonder what the Northern politicians are going to do for a Negro vote bait when there are no more lynchings to justify their annual insistence that an anti-lynching bill be passed by Congress.

The following Associated Press story tells the facts of lynchings and should be tacked on the walls of Congress so that it may be read by those who advocate anti-lynching legislation:

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the Institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

The story could have contained the additional information, that at least two of the three deaths attributed to lynching in 1939 were doubtful of classification as such. They were more correctly described as deaths resulting from attempts to resist arrest.

Lynchings are indeed on the decline.

Greenville, S. C. News
July 5, 1940

TIME TO FORGET IT

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, "there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940."

Thus considerably more than a year has gone by without a single lynching in this country, for a few months ago there was announcement that during the twelve months preceding there had been no lynchings.

This gratifying record ought to be conclusive proof to all members of Congress that the welfare of the country can be best served by completely forgetting that federal "anti-lynching" bill and devoting Congressional time and attention to matters of real importance to the nation.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940 JAN. - JUNE
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

Asheboro, N. C Tribune
July 5, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN NATION DURING 1940

No lynchings have been reported in the United States during the first six months of 1940 according to a statement released by F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute of Alabama. The institute's department of records and research issued the report on the basis of its investigations and records.

Carnesville, Ga., Herald
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings for First Six Months of 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Jackson, Ala., Alabamian
July 10, 1940

No Lynchings First Half 1940

In a release sent out by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of 1940, shows a clean slate.

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Oneonta, Ala., Democrat
July 11, 1940

A Clean Lynching Record

There has not been a single lynching in America during 1940. Better than that, there was not a single lynching in America during the last seven months of 1939—and we have just now completed the first full 12-month period in the history of this country without a lynching.

Federal anti-lynching legislation has not given us that record. Our state laws, backed by a rising tide of public resentment against lynching, have made possible that record. It is one of which the South may well be proud, inasmuch as the South is the scene of virtually all lynchings. During the past 12 months several killings have taken place in New York and elsewhere north of the Mason and Dixon Line, which, had they occurred down here, would have been classified as lynchings. But they did not occur down here, and thus the entire country has a clean record.—Tuscaloosa News.

Cullman, Ala., Tribune
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings This Year

A report this week from the Tuskegee Institute signed by F. D. Patterson, president of the famous school, stated: "According to the information compiled in the Departmeent of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various area."

Marion, Ala., Standard
July 4, 1940

Records Show No Lynchings

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on new releases and investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Centreville, Ala., Press
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings In 1940 Thus Far

F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute reported to The Press last week that so far this year there is no record of a lynching. He states that this information is based on news releases and on investigation made by persons living in various areas.

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings Reported First 6 Months Of 1940

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records. Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939.

Dallas, Ga., New Era
July 11, 1940

Records Show No Lynchings In 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Sanford, N. C., Herald
July 5, 1940

No Lynchings In 1940

Whatever may be said of the shortcomings of the south—and it still has many—the mob spirit as expressed through lynchings is not one of them. The Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, reports there was not a single lynching anywhere in the country during the first six months of 1940. This perfect percentage for a half-year follows a steady improvement in the national lynching record over the decades. And the national record is largely the south's record, for it is in the south that the great majority of lynchings have—unfortunately—occurred. That the south has become civilized and law-abiding in this respect should be a matter of pride for the whole country.

Roxston, Ga., Record
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings for First Six Months of 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
July 2, 1940

No Lynching In First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Clinton, N. C., Independent
July 11, 1940

A PROUD RECORD

A record of which the entire United States can well feel a sense of pride was achieved during the first half of the year 1940.

According to a report sent out from Tuskegee Institute, not a single lynching took place in this country during the first six months of this year. That is a remarkable record, in view of past years, and one which should be maintained.

It is indeed pleasing to note that while the nations of Europe are at each others throat, the people of the United States have been willing to let the law take its course and to refrain from the barbarious tactics of taking the law into their own hands. It is a six-months record to be proud of.

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
August 6, 1940

LYNCHINGS GO UP AS LINT DECLINES

Group Finds Poor, Illiterate South Held In Check by Work Relief Activity

Washington, Aug. 5 (AP).—Lynchings go up as cotton goes down.

That is the conclusion of Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames in a study of the lynching problem published today by the American Council on Public affairs, a group of students, editors, churchmen and others interested in current affairs.

Blames Poverty, Illiteracy

Basically, she said, lynching is a symptom of social conditions—of "poverty, disease, illiteracy, starvation from one generation to the next" among the rural white and negro South.

"Corn (whiskey) and white supremacy have been the sole physical and emotional releases in the lives of most of the white rural population; corn and subtle aggression the only physical and emotional releases of the depressed negroes. Living side by side, under these stimulations, conflict has been inevitable."

Linking lynchings with economic conditions, Mrs. Ames said:

"True to form, the first year of depression—1930—showed an increase of lynchings from ten in the year 1929, the lowest record of any previous year, to 21 the next year. Up to 1936, in fact, the barometer of lynchings moved in inverse ratio to the price of cotton. But in 1936, with the price of cotton still low, lynchings dropped to a new record ...and have continued to decrease.

"What happened?....work relief from the federal and state governments put these people to work and reduced idleness and boredom and equally as important, gave them a little cash money....

Working for Living

"White people still feel their racial supremacy as a sacred and inherent trust, but they are beginning to occupy their minds with the more pressing and important problem of living and earning and spending than with that of finding a negro to lynch to prove their supremacy.

Negroes, long at the bottom of the pile, are beginning to dig themselves out from under, and standing erect...."

Mrs. Ames is general field secretary of the commission on interracial cooperation and executive director of the association of southern women for the prevention of lynching.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
July 25, 1940

A LYNCHLESS YEAR?

Is the year 1940 to pass without a lynching in the United States? This is a question that is being asked in all parts of the country following announcement from Tuskegee Institute, where such records are compiled, that there has not been a lynching during the first six months of the year.

This represents progress against an evil that has plagued the South for generations that brings general satisfaction to the law-abiding citizens of this part of the country. It is particularly gratifying because of the fact that the lynchless six-month period follows the record of 1939 when only three persons lost their lives at the hands of the lynchers, two of them in Florida.

Another feature of this record is that it must be largely accredited to the efforts of the untiring educational efforts of the Association of Southern Women to Prevent Lynching. Through these efforts women of the South have been almost wholly responsible for the pressure upon public officials to provide adequate protection for persons arrested and held as suspects of criminal offenses.

By their insistence that every suspected criminal, white or black, be given the protection necessary against mob violence, and then a fair and impartial trial, these advocates of human rights have stripped the crime of lynching of its falsities. At the same time they have given the best answer yet made to the agitators in other parts of the United States that a Federal anti-lynch law is needed to stop such mob violence.

Southern women, in fact, have been infinitely more effective in their efforts than has been the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The latter organization has used tactics which too often have had the effect of creating ill-will instead of bringing about the co-operation that has been attained by the women's organization. It has, for example, insisted that four lynchings occurred during the first half of 1940, three of the victims being white.

The N. A. A. C. P. claims that the three white persons were lynched near Atlanta and that a negro was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., on June 22. But the records kept at Tuskegee, which are considered as official for the United States, makes no mention of such offenses.

Tuskegee records, therefore, must be considered as accurate in this case.

What has been accomplished in this connection is worthy of special attention. It is a far cry from the 231 lynchings that were recorded in 1892, and the total of not less than 100 a year until 1901. Even as recently as 1935 there were 20 lynchings. The number had fallen to nine by 1936, to eight in 1937, and six in 1938.

To the Association of Southern Women to Prevent Lynching must go the major credit for the great improvemtnt that has been made in the record. To these women must be given most of the credit not only for virtually eliminating the crime of lynching, but also for proving that there is no need for the Federal anti-lynching bill which is still pending in Washington.

The latter measure has passed the House and been reported out by a Senate committee by an 11-to-4 vote, but there has been no special insistence as yet that it be brought to a vote. If such insistence should develop, it will be subjected to a bitter filibuster, as it should be, for it is obvious that there is no justification for enactment of the measure. Its sponsors are playing politics with a subject that should not be subjected to such indefensible tactics.

LYNCHING -- 1940
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No Lynchings in First 6 Months of '40 Reported

7-6-40 New Orleans, La.

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—The department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today that not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940.

Whether the New Roads death of Booster Williams will be recorded as a lynching by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute is unknown as yet. Attorney-General Eugene Stanley of Louisiana said that his department would investigate the matter to ascertain the real cause of the death.

This is the second year in which six months have passed without a lynching, since the institute began keeping records. The previous year was in 1938, when six persons were lynched.

Fairburn, Ga., Campbell News
July 12, 1940

Tuskegee President Issues Statement

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, according to F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Selma, Ala., Times-Journal
July 11, 1940

THE DICTATES OF PREJUDICE

When Tuskegee Institute reported a few days ago that the first six months of 1940 passed without a death by lynching in the United States, exception was taken by Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. White declared that Tuskegee records were in error and cited the deaths of a young Georgia couple as evidence. He declared that the two murder victims were "flogged to death by a mob."

Now we are informed that Georgia officials are holding two negroes for the crime, following a confession by one which led to solution of the case. The story told to officers by the confessed slayer checks with findings of investigators and apparently justice will be meted out to the ones guilty of the killings.

Here is a classic example of how a good cause can be seriously impaired by following the dictates of prejudice rather than reason. All the known facts indicate that White based his challenge of the Tuskegee report upon hearsay and committed the group he represents to unjustified criticism without first establishing the truth of reports reaching him.

As a result, the association may experience difficulty in making itself heard in the future when it might have something of value to impart to the public. Instead of giving recognition to progress made in educating the public against lynch law, White sought to fan the flames of prejudice with hearsay evidence, a practice which contributes nothing constructive to advancement of either race.

Winston-Salem, N. C. Journal
July 4, 1940

A Ray of Light

Here and there in a darkened world fall bright little rays of light.

One of these rays falls upon the South. Tuskegee Institute reports that not a single lynching has occurred in this region, nor in fact in the whole United States, during the first six months of 1940.

While in many nations the forces of war and racial hatred destroy human lives and scourge the souls of men, a South that has known ignorance, war, prejudice, and suffering is moving steadily out of the dark morass of error and narrow vision toward the heights of tolerance, co-operation and mutual understanding.

In this truth resides our higher hope. We are not responsible for the philosophies and acts of peoples separated from us by wide seas and far horizons. But we are responsible for the ideals and emotions which thrive among us here in our own land and in our own communities. We may not be able to reform the world, but it is given to our hand to build a nobler South and a finer America.

We should transform the ray of light noted by Tuskegee into a flaming torch.

Continued Gains for the Anti-Lynching Cause

MORE THAN A YEAR has passed since the Records and Research office at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, that has kept check upon mob murders through a half century past, has recorded a lynching. The latest such outrage to be entered upon the infamous roll occurred on May 8, 1939.

The Institute's president, Dr. F. D. Patterson, lately issued his routine report showing "no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940." Two years ago he reported a similar clean slate for the first half of 1938. Unfortunately, a relapse occurred during the second half-year, so that the record showed six mob crimes during the 12 months. Only three were charged against 1939—all occurring before May 9.

Accordingly, the country has gone almost 14 months without a lynching, and one sees the probability that 1940 will show a clean slate. That would be a disinction, indeed — the first calendar year on record to be completely free of the lynch-murder blot.

Of course, it is much too early for felicitations. As happened two years ago, certain lynching strongholds still could pile up a roll of victims, as though to make up for lost time. For like reasons, it would be premature to conclude—as the Senators who killed an equivalent measure by a filibuster in 1937, after it had passed the House by more than 2 to 1, surely will argue—that the Gavagan Anti-Lynching Bill is not needed.

On the other hand, a reasonable assumption is that the agitation over that measure, in Congress and through the newspapers, has restrained would-be lynchers. However, greater credit probably is due the educational work that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, other civic organizations and—not least important—Tuskegee Institute itself have been doing.

West Blocton, Ala., Enterprise
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings In 1940 Thus Far

F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute reported to The Press last week that so far this year there is no record of a lynching. He states that this information is based on news releases and on investigation made by persons living in various areas.

Asheville, N. C., Times
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings Are Reported During First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today. Only in one year previously, 1938, were no lynchings recorded.

Dawson, Ga., News
July 11, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

Not a single lynching was reported in the United States during the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute has announced.

Seneca, S. C., Journal
July 4, 1940

WORTHY OF NOTE—

In this year when hatred and slaughter seem to be the keynote of the times it is encouraging to get the following communication from President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute—a report that shows that one condition, which was a blot on our civilization, is being bettered.

The report reads: "According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news and releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Hapeville, Ga., Review
July 12, 1940

Tuskegee President Issues Statement

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, according to F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Houma, La. Courier
July 8, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN U. S. DURING FIRST 6 MONTHS

The semi-annual report of the Tuskegee Institute, Alabama negro school shows that there were no lynchings reported in the United States during the first six months of this year. Lynchings have shown a rapid decline in numbers during the past several years and there is some hope that they may be entirely eliminated.

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Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
July 5, 1940

LYNCHINGS GROW LESS YEARLY

According to the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute not one lynching occurred anywhere in the United States during the first six months of this year.

This is an unusual record and one in which our people should feel proud of and join in commending the people of this country for their sane and sober consideration for respect of law and decency. In 1937 there were eight lynchings; in 1938 there were six and in 1939 there were only three. The small number of lynchings in recent years should be a strong argument against any measures for anti-lynching. The proposed anti-lynching bill, which has passed the lower House of Congress, and now in the hands of a senate committee, should be withdrawn by its authors. Since lynchings are practically extinct in this country, a revival of this bill in the senate will cause disruption and create a sectional prejudice that will take years to heal.

If the good behavior of our people will continue for the remainder of this year, there will be little left for the advocates of the bill to stand on. Of course, the bill was introduced for political purposes with the hopes of corralling the negro vote for the Republican candidate for the presidency. However, it is not believed that the negroes will be deceived by such clap trap politics, but in those states, where the negro has a deciding power, they will remain in the Democratic party where they have received munificent benefits.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS REPORTED FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1940

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records. Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 8, 1940

NO LYNCHING THIS YEAR

Tuskegee Institute announces that, according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940.

This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
July 9, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

The southern states can afford to be everlastingly grateful for the no-lynching record for the first six months of 1940.

Eloquent evidence of sociological progress that has not been easily achieved, the record is a happy contrast to the large totals of deaths by lynching that were reported annually between 1890 and 1910.

There has been a steady decline in the number of lynchings because there has been general sociological advancement in the south, interracial committees have worked faithfully and intelligently and southern white women have emphatically urged through their anti-lynching organization a law-and-order policy that does not countenance mob violence.

LaFayette, Ga., Messenger
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings Reported For First 6 Months Of 1940.

F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskeegee Institute, Alabama, makes the following report on Lynchings to June 30, 1940:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on persons living in various areas."

Thomasville, Ga. Press
July 5, 1940

According to the information and records compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas and is believed to be completely accurate. This record indicates that the best method of combatting social crimes is through education of the citizens. State and federal laws are powerless, but public opinion on such crimes is potent.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
July 3, 1940

U. S. GOES HALF-YEAR WITHOUT LYNCHING

(The Associated Press)

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Montezuma, Ga., Georgian
July 4, 1940

NOT A SINGLE LYNCHING IN FIRST 6 MONTHS

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2.—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced Tuesday.

Only in one year previously, 1938 has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Waynesboro, Ga., Citizen
July 4, 1940

No Lynchings Up To July 1st, 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news released and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Thomaston, Ga., Times
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

The semi-annual statement from Tuskegee Institute regarding lynchings shows that no lynchings have been made during the first half of 1940. The report follows:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas." The report was signed gy F. D. Patterson, president of the institute.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN U. S. FIRST HALF OF YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
July 2, 1940

Half Year Without A Lynching

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Waycross, Ga., Journal-Herald
July 2, 1940

SINGLE LYNCHING ORTED SIX MONTHS

TSKEGEE, Ala., July 2 (AP)—a single lynching was re-ed throughout the United es in the first six months of , the department of records research, Tuskegee Institute, ounced today.

nly in one previous year——since the institute began ping records had the first six ths passed without a lynch-

ynchings have shown a mark-decline in recent years, eight urring in 1937, six in 1938 and e in 1939.

Pelham, Ga., Journal
July 4, 1940

The Tuskegee Institute whose officials keep up with such matters state there were no lynchings during the past six months, yet the U. S. Congress spend thousands trying to enact a lynch law, not to prevent lynchings, but to force innocent communities to pay a heavy penalty in the event a mad mob goes on the war path.

'No Lynchings In First Six Months Of '40'-Tuskegee

Courier 7-13-40

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 11 — (Special) — Announcement was made Tuesday by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, that no lynchings occurred in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

Report of the flogging to death of Elbert Williams, Negro, alleged to have been taken from his home in Brownsville, Tenn., by a group of men, and whose body was found on June 23, has not yet been officially verified.

There were three lynchings last year, six in 1938, eight in 1937. None occurred during the first six months in 1938.

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(ANP)—Not one lynching was reported anywhere in the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced this week. Only in one year previously, 1938, has such a report been possible since Tuskegee began keeping records.

No Lynchings For Fir 6 Months Says Tuskeg

Age 7-13-40 New York

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Dr. F. D. Patterson, President of Tuskegee Institute, on Monday released the following statement concerning lynchings for the first six months of 1940:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. Thus information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

No Lynching In 6 Months

Argus 7-12-40 Detroit Mich.

TUSKEGEE, Ala. —(A.N.P.)— Not one lynching was reported anywhere in the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee institute announced this week. Only in one year previously, 1938, has such a report been possible since Tuskegee began keeping records.

NO LYNCHINGS REPORTED DURING FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1940

Palmetto Leader 7-13-40 Columbia - S.C.

Tuskegee Institute, Alabama
June 30, 1940

Dear Sir:

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson, President

Tuskegee Reports No Lynching This Year

Tribune 7-13-40 New York

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—There is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940, according to the information compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, it was revealed this week.

This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Thomasville, Ga., Times-Enterprise
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN U. S. REPORTED THIS YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2 (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Walterboro, S. C. Press & Standard
July 4, 1940

No Lynching This Year—
According to figures given out from the Tuskegee Institute, Ala., there have been no lynchings in the United States for the first six months of the year.

Opelika, Ala. News
July 6, 1940

Six Months Go By Without Lynching

Tuskegee, Ala.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940 ,the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have known a marked decline in recent years ,eight occuring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938. and three in 1939.

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1940

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute there is no record of a lynching in the United States in the first six months of 1940.

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What Is A Lynching?

Post

A spirited controversy arose last May when Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching issued a statement claiming that 12 consecutive months had passed without a lynching in the United States. Her assertion was immediately challenged by a number of correspondents whose letters were published in The Post. 7-5-40

Probably the most specific contradiction of this claim came from Mr. Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In our letter column of May 21 Mr. White declared that the "Fulton County Grand Jury and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have turned up three mob murders by the Ku Klux Klan almost under the window of Mrs. Ames' office in Atlanta, Ga." Those "lynchings" were said to have taken place last March.

Another chapter in the controversy is now written by President Patterson of Tuskegee Institution. Under date of June 30 he writes:

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

So we are confronted by the question, what is a lynching? Were the cases in Georgia lynchings or gang slayings? If "lynching" means taking a prisoner out of the hands of law-enforcement officers and putting him to death, then the Georgia slayings seem to be outside that classification. If it means any slaying by a mob or gang, then lynching has not yet disappeared.

In at least one respect this controversy should have a salutary effect. It seems to have put some advocates of the anti-lynching bill on record in favor of Federal action against gangs that resort to murder. There are various types of gang or mob murder, including those for which Chicago and New York have been notorious. Certainly there would be no point in passing a law designed to counteract one particularly barbaric type of slaying, which seems to be extinct, while ignoring the more prevalent forms of murder, which are still a grave promlem.

This controversy has helped to emphasize that murder is a ghastly crime whether it is perpetrated by an infuriated mob, by fanatical vigilantes, professional gangsters or amateur bandits. It is indisputable that more effective methods of eliminating murders of every type are needed. The public welfare would be served if all the groups that have interested themselves in the unconstitutional anti-lynching bill would drop that politics-ridden measure and work for more effective means of protecting human life within the framework of our Federal system.

NO LYNCHINGS?

Tuskegee Institute as has been its custom for many years, under date of June 30, sends out the following release with regard to lynchings for the first six months of 1940, with a request from President F. D. Patterson that it be published "in full exactly as it has been transmitted":

"Dear Sir:

According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Very truly yours,
F. D. Patterson,
President.

It is altogether fitting and proper that Tuskegee Institute should be more guarded from now on in what it says with regard to lynchings, inasmuch as its research department largely depends upon newspaper clippings for information about mob murders. On at least one occasion, as we recollect, after a Tuskegee release had been published, a previously unreported lynching was discovered.

It is said on good authority that there exists a conspiracy in lynch-ridden areas of the country to stop publishing the "score" in newspapers. This, for the purpose of quieting the demand for the passage of a Federal Anti-Lynching Law.

Note how silent newspapers have been with regard to the death of Elbert Williams at Brownsville, Tenn. The body of this colored man was fished up from a nearby river on June 23. The man had been active in a campaign to get Negroes qualified to vote in that county. A condition of terrorism exists now in Brownsville, and there is every reason to believe that Williams came to his death at the hands of a mob.

You have not as yet heard nor will you likely hear of any action upon the part of the state authorities, seeking to bring to justice the killers of Elbert Williams. And yet the nature of the crime and the conditions now prevailing at Brownsville should cause state authorities to give the matter at least as much attention as is given to running down persons engaged in selling liquor.

The conclusion of this whole matter is the Tuskegee report on lynchings may be and doubtless is wholly in error and misleading. We need a Federal Anti-Lynching Law, enforceable by the U. S. Department of Justice, to get to the bottom of mob murders committed in areas where state and local authorities do not enforce the laws and where their faithlessness is covered up by a venal press.

This nation must have the kind of cooperation between government and industry to prepare for war that never will be achieved by such foes as the New Deal and industry.

Hard To Distinguish

THE carefully worded Tuskegee semi-annual report on lynchings reveals that mob violence in the lynching category is definitely on the decline. The Tuskegee report is based "on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

The NAACP, which also keeps a check on lynchings, differs with Tuskegee. The former lists four lynchings, according to its method of classification. Three of the victims were white, and were flogged to death in Georgia. The other, a colored man, died at the hands of unknown persons at Brownsville, Tenn., on June 22d, "for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register and vote."

The question here has to do with the size and nature of mobs and the technique they employ in disposing of their victims. The Georgia floggings were identified, we believe, with the Ku Klux Klan, and there were some prosecutions. It was pretty well established that the floggings were committed by groups of people. The question is: did these groups constitute mobs? The NAACP thinks they did.

The Tennessee case was quite different in nearly all its aspects from the Georgia case. Here was a situation in which a question of civil rights was involved and there was general knowledge on the part of the mayor of Brownsville and other responsible white people in the community that certain colored men had been threatened with harm if they insisted upon the exercise of certain civil rights. The mayor had been appealed to, according to reports, and had told colored citizens that the situation was beyond his control. Groups of whites had intimidated colored individuals and groups. In the end, one colored man was the victim of a gang murder, according to the evidence. Was this gang murder a lynching? When all the circumstances are considered the difference is only one of technique. The victim was not strung up openly in the way that mobs used to operate.

So, we hold that Tuskegee is wrong on the Brownsville case and that the NAACP is right. On the Georgia cases, and many other cases where the victims of gang or group wrath just disappear and are found dead, it is hard to distinguish between gang murder and mob murder unless public opinion and legal authorities are going to agree that they are one and the same.

Tuskegee and N.A.A.C.P. Differ on Lynch Report

Clear Lynching Record

Not one lynching was recorded in the 48 United States during the first six months of 1940, Tuskegee Institute reports.

This is a fine record thus far. It is to be hoped that the last half of 1940 will pass without a lynching to mar a perfect record. Yet before the record is celebrated it will be well to consider just what has happened in this country during the last six months.

Lynchings of the old-fashioned type have virtually disappeared in recent years. One seldom hears of a mob seizing a victim and hanging him or shooting him. But in the South we still have too many "lawful homicides," too many killings by peace officers.

Foes of lynching say that "legal homicide" has taken the place of the lynching mob in some parts of the country and that sometimes fugitives are spirited away by two or three men and never seen again.

The mob technique has changed, the foes of lynching say, but victims still are lynched and the crimes called by no name at all. This may be exaggerated, but it is at least partly true.

It is a healthful sign, however, that lynchings, when and if they occur, no longer are public spectacles in which many persons take part and which still others condone.

There was a time when many persons, North, South, East and West, believed that lynchings occasionally were necessary to maintain "law and order." That time has passed..

Darlington, S. C. News & Press
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings In First Half of 1940

According to information compiled in the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, says Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

Gadsden, Ala., Etowah Observer
July 18, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

WALTER WHITE CITES FOUR MOB VICTIMS

Secretary Mentions Deaths Of Three in Atlanta, One in Tennessee

Tuskegee Institute reported last week that no lynchings occurred during the first six months of 1940, but the N. A. A. C. P. immediately challenged the report, saying that at least four persons have been lynched since January 1.

Over the signature of President Frederick D. Patterson, Tuskegee sent the following release to the press:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. Th is information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Upon receiving this report, Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P., wired President Patterson that two white persons, Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford, were flogged to death by a mob in Atlanta on March 2 and that five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death in the same city. White also cited the lynch-drowning of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tenn., on June 22.

Mr. White's telegram:

"We are inexpressibly shocked by Tuskegee's statement that no lynchings occurred during first six months of 1940. On March 2, Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were flogged to death by a mob at Atlanta, Ga. Five days later Ike Gaston was beaten to death by mob in same city. On June 22, Elbert Williams, Negro, was lynched at Brownsville, Tenn., for attempting to exercise his constitutional right to register in order to vote in 1940 presidential election.

Such inaccurate statements by Tuskegee Institute do irreparable harm by causing public vigilance against mob murder to relax and by giving enemies of anti-lynching bill ammunition for sabotage of such legislation."

"Walter White, Secretary."

Ashland, Ala. Progress
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings Occur During Past Six Months

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, sends the following bit of news regarding lynchings in the United States during the first six months of this year:

"According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas."

Bamberg, S. C., Times
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS FIRST SIX MO.

According to an announcement from Tuskegee Institute there were no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940. this is a record and wehope the slate will stay clean for the next six months

$196,000 FOR RURAL ELECTRIC

Congressman Fulmer advises that $196,000 has been alloted the Coastal Electric Coperative, of Walterboro to extend its ines to serve approximately to 770 families in Colleton, Bamberg and O angeburg counties

Atmore, Ala., Advance
July 11, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS DURING FIRST HALF OF YEAR

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Sparta, Ga., Ishmaelite
July 18, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

Not a single lynching was reported in the United States during the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute has announced.

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
July 18, 1940

No Lynchings For First Six Months

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
July 8, 1940

A Historic Report

On May 9, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, executive secretary of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, called attention to the fact that 365 days had passed without a lynching, the first time since records began to be kept in 1882 that such a statement could be made.

On June 30, Tuskegee Institute, which has been one of the most careful and persistent compilers of lynching records, sent out its semi-annual report to newspapers all over the land, with these words:

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research [of Tuskegee Institute], there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

In one sense, this Tuskegee report is merely an addition to Mrs. Ames' report, and therefore means that from May 9 to June 30 there was no lynching in the United States. But in another sense it has a greater historical value. Tuskegee's annual reports, and in more recent years its semi-annual reports, have been the basis of most of the measurements of national progress toward the eradication of this foul crime. They are as regular as the seasons, and they are relied on by the great majority of all students of lynching. Brief, factual, objective and impersonal, they are milestones in Southern history.

Even now this unique notation that "there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940" is submitted with no sign of satisfaction or elation. But it is a historic report for all that—a goal toward which Southern Negroes and most Southern white people have looked for half a century, an achievement of which all Americans can be proud, and a record, attained through decades of anguish and torture and education and resolution, which it is encumbent on all of us to keep spotless.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON, SENT PRESS

JAN- JUNE

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Ocala, Fla., Evening Star
July 2, 1940

No Lynching For First Six Months

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 2, 1940

U. S. Goes Through First Half Of 1940 Without Lynching

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 3, 1940

Tuskegee Institute reports that no lynchings were reported in this country during the first six months of 1940—a fine record that it is hoped can be maintained throughout the year.

Lanett, Ala. Times
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings On The Record For Past Six Months

According to the information compiled in the Department of

Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, the institute reported.

F. D. Patterson, Pres.
Tuskegee Institute.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHING NOTED IN FIRST HALF-YEAR

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Columbia, Tenn., Daily Herald
July 5, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS IN FIRST HALF 1940

(Special to The Daily Herald.)

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 5.—According to information compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching in the United States for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, according to F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee president.

Morristown, Tenn. Sun
July 4, 1940

NO LYNCHING IN 1940

There is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940 according to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
July 2, 1940

Six Months Pass Without A Lynching

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings Recorded First Half of Year

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

Union, S. C., Times
July 2, 1940

No Lynching In U. S. During First Six Months Time

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Birmingham, Ala. News
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings In 1940

There were no lynchings in the United States during the first six months of 1940, the Tuskegee Institute department of records and research announced today. In making the announcement, Tuskegee's President F. D. Patterson said the information was based on news releases and investigations made by persons living in various areas of the country.

Huntsville, Ala., Times
July 2, 1940

First 6 Months Go By Without Single Lynching

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2 (AP) — Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching in this country, since the institute began keeping records.

Lynchings have known a marked decline in recent years, eight occuring throughout the country in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939.

Springfield, Tenn. Herald
July 4, 1940

No Lynching In U. S. During Past Six Months

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Gulfport, Miss. Herald
July 3, 1940

REPORT NO LYNCHING FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1940

According to the information compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas, the institute reported.

Tifton, Ga., Gazette
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS REPORTED

Tuskegee, Ala., July 3.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported in the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, has announced.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institution began keeping records, had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
July 3, 1940

No Lynchings In First Half Of Year

Tuskegee, July 1.—According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
July 3, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS FOR 1940

Tuskegee Reports Clear Record Thus Far

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Bishopville, S. C., Messenger
July 4, 1940

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Gainesville, Fla. Sun
July 2, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS

TUSKEGEE, Ala. (AP) — Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute announced today. Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Charleston, S. C., Evening Post, July 2, 1940

No Lynching in First Six Months

Tuskegee, Ala., July 2. (AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the department of records and research of Tuskegee institute announced today.

Only in one year previously, 1938, has the first six months passed without a lynching since the institute began keeping records.

Augusta, Ga. Herald
July 2, 1940

No Lynchings in First Six Months

TUSKEGEE, Ala., July 2.—(AP)—Not a single lynching was reported throughout the United States in the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research, Tuskegee Institute, announced today.

Only in one previous year—1938—since the institute began keeping records had the first six months passed without a lynching.

Lynchings have shown a marked decline in recent years, eight occurring in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE

The record department of Tuskeege Institute reports no lynchings during the first six months of 1940. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People says there were four naming the individuals, places and methods used to put the victims to death.

Evidentially Tuskeegee Institute takes the position that unless the victim is strung up by a mob causing much commotion, a lynching has not occurred. A casual look at any dictionary shows this is not the case. For instance Webster's Twentieth Century Dictionary in its definition of lynching says:

"Lynching, n. The act of punishing without the form of law; mob violence. Lynching is defined as anarchy and as murder.—Chicago Tribune, Feb. 1, 1904. Lynch-law, n. (So called from Charles Lynch, a Virginia planter who, during the Revolution, inflicted summary punishment upon lawless persons.) The act or practice of punishing offenders for a crime without trial; specificially, the hanging or putting to death by violence. of a person without due process of law, as by a mob."

Just what Tuskege is driving at by misstatements as to the number of lynchings the Bystander cannot understand. Maybe it is an effort to pacify the southern white people among whom it must live and grow. Maybe that is not the reason at all. But the fact remains that since Tuskegee publishes the only Negro record book which in many o ffices, libraries and class rooms is used for references, it ought to state facts for the sake of the record.

We complain and justly so that many of our textbooks do not give the Negro justice in their statement of his part in citivigation. Maybe they have been taking their records from Tuskegee. If so we need to make our fight on the source of the information from which the text is written.

Kingstree, S. C., Record
July 11, 1940

No Lynchings in Half Year

According to the information compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute, there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940. This information is based on news releases and on investigations made by persons living in various areas.

Hartwell, Ga., Sun
July 19, 1940

NO LYNCHINGS THIS YEAR

Not a single lynching was reported in the United States during the first six months of 1940, the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute has announced.

Butler, Ga., Herald
July 25, 1940

It is gratifying that the semi-annual report of Tuskegee Institute on the subject of lynchings, issued June 30th, states "there is no record of a lynching for the first six months of 1940."

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LYNCHING-1940 JAN-DEC.

REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

LET'S STAMP IT OUT JAN. 2 1941

Respect for long established law and order procedures has been stamped out in some parts of the earth. Hitler and his international brigands have declared a "total war" on our cherished traditions of government. These outlaws declare they will destroy every vestige of the the "established order"—our present-day civilization, if you please.

Forest Blade

In every continent in the world except the Americas, liberty-loving, law abiding peoples have had their countries overrun and they are now enslaved under the heel of the ruthless dictators who despise law and order and liberty of thought and action. They are now strenuously engaged in trying to subject and overrun the balance of the world. In the United States and the rest of North and South America, we are threatened with a dose of the dictators' medicine. How long before we will be involved, no one knows. Some have awakened from their slumber; some have not. The indifferent ones are the real danger to the free, democratic peoples of the world. When will they wake up and join in preparing our nation to defend itself against the ruthless aggressors—those who care nothing for law and order or liberty and freedom of thought?

In this connection, it might be noted that we have one sore spot in our nation that can and ought to be remedied. This is the crime of lynching—the act of illegally putting to death a human being without a trial or a hearing. This happens, too, right in the nation that is the citadel of strength and hope—of human freedom and rights—the United States of America.

In our beloved Southland, this crime has been more prevalent than in other sections of the nation. It has occurred in every section of our land, it should be remembered. But that is no excuse for countenancing this crime.

If we profess to believe in and permit the practice of this uncivilized crime in our communities, let us be frank and ask ourselves a few questions. Have we lost faith in our courts and juries? Can we not depend upon our established legal processes to mete out justice to violators of the law, in an orderly manner—the manner guaranteed under our constitutional system of government? Is there any difference in a mob of citizens taking th law into their hands and passing out pretended justice by a high-handed and unconstitutional method or the ruthless, uncivilized plan of the present day dictators? Do we favor one and not favor the other illegal plan?

And to cap the climax, can it be said that we practice what we preach, if we participate in or countenance illegal murder—lynching by mob rule—and declare to the world, at one and the same time, that we are a God-fearing or a Christian people? Our whole philosophy of government is founded upon the Holy Bible; it is hard to find a citizen in our midst who says he does not beleve in or pretend to practice the teachings laid down in the Holy Bble. And from that viewpoint, there can be no justification for countenancing the crime of murder by an illegal mob. So, viewed from any standpoint, if we are sincere in our com-

only accepted professons of faith and practices, let's be honest with ourselves and say that we do not countenance the uncivilized crime of lynching. If the sincere, law abiding men and women in every community will fearlessly and openly denounce the crime and cooperate in bringing the mob participants to trial before the established courts of justice, we will stamp out lynching.

Forest Blade

In Emanuel county, we know it can be stamped out. Public sentiment is what counts. Uphold the hands of the officers and the courts and the jurors and lynching will cease. In our county, in those cases where the usual or alleged excuse for lynching has existed, the courts have gone ahead, in the prescribed, legal trial, and disposed of the cases. We can well be proud of this record for Emanuel county. There have, too, been but few instances where such cases arose, during the past several years. Fearless sheriffs, plus public sentiment, made this possible.

In vew of all of these ponts, which are admittedly right and proper methods of thinking and dealing with these cases and this crime, no one will openly and publicly challenge the soundness of these arguments against lynching

The conscience of all will be clear, if we but uphold the dignity of our constitution and our laws, plus our cherished traditions of the "right way" to live and conduct ourselves. Sincerity is the best policy at all times. If we save our civilization, we must practice and act the part of civilized human beings, as well as adhere to our declarations that we are God-fearing, Christian men and women.

It is heartening to note that there were only four lynchings in the nation during 1940. It is disheartening, as well as discouraging, to note that the four crimes of illegal, mob murder occurred right in our midst—namely, two in Georgia, one in Alabama, and one in Tennessee. One mob victim was a white man and three were negroes and the offenses for which the alleged crimes were committed were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1, and an altercation of a negro with a white man, 1 Swainsboro Ga.

These facts come from the records made and kept by the department of

records and research of Tuskegee Institute, being released to the press and the public by President F. D. Patterson of that institution.

In one part of the report, it said "There were 22 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these instances were in Northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two negro women and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs."

In another paragraph of the report, of interest to Georgians, it related: "There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1."

The report also stated: "One of the persons lynched was taken from jail, one was shot to death in jail." Is there any justification, in the name of civilization, why such should have taken place? Why build jails?

Other facts about the crime of lynching, tending to show it is being outlawed by public sentiment, are these: Lynchngs in 1939 were 3, in 1938, 6, and 8 in each of the years 1936 and 1937. JAN 2 1941

If we would not stain our records, we would stamp out lynching. It can be done. In Emanuel county, every citizen ought to be proud of our record. Those of us who are of law-abiding tendencies should wisely counsel with our fellow men who are inclined to take the law unto themselves and desecrate our long-established institutions. An overwhelming majority of the people in Emanuel county, in Georgia and in the rest of the nation believes in the principle of affording every person charged with crime a fair, impartial and speedy trial before a duly constituted court of law, we can confidently assert.

LYNCHING -1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

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Pensacola, Fla. News
December 30, 1940

Florida Is Clear Of Lynch Marks

FLORIDA was free of lynchings in 1940, according to records compiled and made public by Tuskegee institute. This perfect mark for the year drawing to a close is a great improvement over 1939 when Florida was charged with two of three lynchings recorded in that year.

It is all the more noteworthy when it is known that the number of lynchings in 1940 jumped from the three in 1939 to five in 1940. Alabama and Georgia are charged with two each and Tennessee with one. One was white, four were Negroes.

The charges against the persons lynched are revealing. Only one was alleged to have committed rape, the offense generally credited with being the cause of mob punishment in the South. The other charges were wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one, altercation with a white man, one, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mister", one.

These charges are indication of the fundamental correctness of the contention of the Association of Southern Women Against Lynching that protection of womanhood is merely a screen to cover the real reasons for mob violence in many instances.

The most encouraging part of the report by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, is that 22 instances were recorded in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

The total number of lynchings for the last few years follow:

1940—five; 1939—3; 1938—six; 1937—eight; 1936—eight.

The Tuskegee report shows that one person was taken from jail and lynched and that one was shot to death in a jail. This indicates that had officers taken proper precautions two of the lynchings might have been prevented.

The 22 cases of prevented mob violence show that the campaign of southern women against lynchings has accomplished great good, for these women have gone to the root of the trouble by putting pressure on local peace officers, especially sheriffs, to compel them to protect their prisoners or to face defeat at the polls. This, with education of the public against lawlessness, will go further to stamp out these crimes than will any federal anti-lynching law.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
January 1, 1941

Tuskegee Reports Five Lynchings During 1940

F. D. Patterson, president, Tuskegee Institute, releases the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940:

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched 1 was white and 4 were negro. The offenses charged were: Wife beating and drunkenness 1, attempted rape 1, attempting to qualify to vote 1, and an altercation with white man 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia 2, Alabama 2 and Tennessee 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama 1, Georgia 3, Tennessee 1 and Louisiana 1.

WELLINGTON, TEX., L[illegible]
JAN. 16, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

GEORGETOWN, KY. NEWS
JAN. 10, 1941 P3

Five Lynchings During Past Year

There were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were Negro.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

GLOVERSVILLE N Y LEADER REPUB
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1941

POTS SHOULD NOT CALL THE KETTLE BLACK

During the year 1940, according to the statistics collected by Tuskegee Institute, only four persons were lynched in the South—two in Georgia, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee. Three of the four were Negroes, only one of whom was illegally executed for the single crime which, in the opinion of certain Southern apologists, justifies lynching. One of the men was lynched for trying to qualify as a voter; another for having an argument with a white man. Yet, despite the fact that lynchings still exist, four in the entire country in a year is hardly a sufficient blot on the national record to warrant the centralization of authority in the Washington government by a special law to make the crime of lynching a Federal offense. Apparently the gradual education of backwoods areas in the South — where not so long ago 20 to 30 lynchings a year were common—and a growing respect for court action are doing the job far better than it could be done through action of Congress. This merely makes a good political rallying-cry; nothing more. Lynching is horrible and inexcusable. Those engaged in such a murderous occupation should be arrested, tried, sentenced and punished. No matter how thoroughly the mobs engaged in such a deed consider themselves "Southern gentlemen," they are really thugs and criminals, no whit better than the racketeers of our large northern cities. But to dignify their crimes by appealing to the Federal authorities is not necessary. There are more racketeer murders every year in each of the metropolises of the North than lynchings in the entire South. Let us not point the finger at the one while the toher is still unrestrained.

...ington, Tenn. Leader
January 9. 1941

Lynching Record For 1940

Five lynchings were reported in the U. S. in 1940. This number exceeded by two the number for 1939, but was less than for any of the three preceding years. Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee were the scenes of these cases of rule by mob law. While the situation with regard to lynching cannot be said to be entirely under control, statistics for other years would undoubtedly show considerable net gain.

We in the South have been severely criticized and at times maligned for allowing these illegal executions to take place. Certainly they are not to be condoned. No right thinking person can put his seal of approval upon acts of violence that circumvent the due processes of the law.

The perennial anti-lynching bill that is always bobbing up in our national legislature is calculated by its supporters to discourage if not eliminate lynching. Such a law would make it a federal offense, thus removing it from the jurisdiction of the state courts. Some of the proposed bills have included provisions for a penalty upon the county or municipality in which a lynching takes place. Since public opinion, in the final analysis, has the force of law, such proposals do not seem to offer a solution to the problem. And it doesn't seem right for a preponderant majority of the citizens of a community, who are innocent, to be penalized for the actions of a few mob-crazed individuals who are temporarily out of their minds.

There is a case pending now in one of our West Tennessee counties where an indiscreet handling of the situation might have produced the proper setting for a lynching. Wise officials placed the defendant in a neighboring county jail and also obtained a change of venue so that he could be tried by a judge and jury in that county.

Nineteen instances were reported from the South last year in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. This is an encouraging record. All in all, the facts seem to obviate the necessity of federal legislation on the subject.

L...hings

The ...egee Institute has just issued information concerning lynchings in the United States in 1940. During the year four persons were lynched, compared with three for the year previous and six for the year 1938.

Of the persons lynched one was white and three were Negroes. The offenses were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one, and altercation with a white man, one. In 22 cases lynchings were prevented by officers of the l...

It is encouraging that lynchings have fallen ...below their totals of a few years ago. It is discouraging that mobs should still think it necessary to take the law into their hands and kill human beings for offenses like some of those listed.

VERNON TEX. RECORD
JAN. 3. 1941

MEETING RACIAL ISSUE.

Report of the Tuskegee Institute that only four lynchings occurred in the United States last year furnishes grounds for the assertion that this problem is being solved. Of course, four lynchings are four more than there should be, and there must be no let-up in effort to stamp out this form of crime until a perfect record of no lynchings is achieved.

The report also discloses what is more significant, that 28 persons were saved from lynching by officers who defied mobs. Three of four lynching victims in 1940 were Negroes. One was a white man. Of the 28 intended victims of mob violence, which were saved, six were whites. The main point of interest is that something is being done to check lynching. The large number of cases where courage and foresight on the part of officers prevented lynchings suggests the logical remedy.

Most of the lynching attempts occur in the South. Most of them involve Negroes charged with sex crimes aganist white women. Where else in all the world do two races as different as Negroes and whites live side by side with as little interracial strife as we have in the South? When the self-appointed critics of the Southern people find such an instance their condemnations will have some merit.

As a matter of fact, no people in all history have succeeded as well as the people of the South have in solving an unbelievably difficult racial and social problem. The record is not perfect but progress has been not only steady but rapid.

KANSAS CITY, KS. KANSAN
JAN. 4, 1941

Progress Against Lynching

Except in three southern states—Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee—the American people had a clear record on lynching in 1940. In those three states four persons were put to death by mob violence. This was one more than in 1939, according to the records compiled by the Tuskegee Institute.

More significant is the fact shown by the records that there were twenty-eight other instances of attempted lynching which were thwarted when the law officers bravely stood up against the mobs and got them to disperse. Mobs can be stopped.

The decline in lynchings is at least partly attributable to the campaign for a federal anti-lynching law. This has been bitterly fought by southern senators and congressmen who talk learnedly of states' rights in the matter of breakdowns of law and order. They have succeeded in blocking the legislation, but meanwhile the states and localities themselves seem to have tightened up their own law enforcement. To the extent that that is done, the same end is accomplished.

The lynching record cannot be called clear until not only are lynchings themselves ended for all time but also the mob rule spirit is fully supplanted by an unbroken tradition of letting law and order prevail in all things.

Calais Maine Advertiser
February 19, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama,, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women; and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884 and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed

6563

LYNCHING-1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
March 1, 1941

Lynching Report And The South

(The Anniston Star).

Although the latest report on lynching from the Tuskegee Institute shows a continued restraint in the South, it is not at all pleasant to reflect that four persons were killed in the South by mob action in 1940. Until the toll of lynching in the South is reduced to zero, we should not be content. The law of lynch is outmoded and if allowed to go unchecked it will lead back to the days of the Ku Klux Klan and lawlessness in other quarters.

Of the four persons lynched last year, all of them in the South, one was from Alabama. Two others were in Georgia — the Ku Klux Klan scandal in that state — and one in Tennessee.

Looking over the report, we find that officers were on their jobs, alert for any mob action, during the year. Twenty-two attempts to lynch were reportedly prevented by law officers. Three of the reported instances were in the North, the other 19 in the South. As a result 28 persons were saved from mobs.

The lynch report shows several causes, none of which constituted a capital crime. Three negroes were killed for these reasons: attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man. A white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkness. Outside of the attempt to rape, none of the three negroes was accused of a crimial offense.

In addition to this definite information from Tuskegee, it is reported that evidence is insufficient in six other cases to determine lynching. Of these one case was in Alabama, three in Georgia and on each in Tennessee and Louisiana.

The number of definite lynchings was one more than for the previous year, but it does not indicate a need for an oppressive Federal law which would invade the rights of states to their own criminal control. The Star is opposed to a Federal lynch bill, not only because lynchings are becoming so few but for the far greater cause of states rights.

Every Tuskegee report — and we appreciate the reports very much— shows lynchings which have occurred in the South. Yet there are numerous murders coming under that head in the North. Northern law officers, however, are not frank enough to call them lynchings.

Newspapers and officers of the South will continue to exert their best efforts to stop lynchings entirely. They will work on their own initiative and not because of criticism from the North or the continual threat of a Federal lynch law. We will do the job because it is one that should be done, because mob violence can lead to terrible things. Southerners retain a strong sense of honor, which must be rationalized and diverted into the right channels.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
February 26, 1941

The Lynching Report And The South

(The Anniston Star)

Although the latest report on lynching from the Tuskegee Institute shows a continued restraint in the South, it is not at all pleasant to reflect that four persons were killed in the South by mob action in 1940. Until the toll of lynching in the South is reduced to zero, we should not be content. The law of lynch is outmoded and if allowed to go unchecked it will lead back to the days of the Ku Klux Klan and lawlessness in other quarters.

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Wetumpka, Ala., Herald
April 24, 1941

FIVE LYNCHINGS TOO MANY

There were five lynchings in the United States last year, according to the records of Tuskegee Institute, and that was just five too many. The previous year, 1939, was the all-time low, with only three lynchings.

When it is recalled that lynchings numbered between one and two hundred annually at the close of the last century, the few reported in recent years can be reported as a vast improvement over lawless conditions which once obtained. But we must not be satisfied until we have a year without a lynching. We must not be content until in every state in the Union there is disposition to invoke the processes of law, rather than to give way to mob psychology, in the solution of our inter-racial problems.

LYNCHING - 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN. DEC

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Norfolk, Va. Pilot
January 6, 1941

Five Lynchings in 1940

Tuskegee Institute's Department of Records and Research, announcing its annual report on lynchings in 1940 under a December 19 date, thus beating the calendar by 12 days, reported four lynchings during the year and added that "there are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete."

By December 28 one of these six had cleared up sufficiently, as these investigators interpreted it, to qualify as a lynching. Result: Tuskegee records five lynchings in 1940.

As it happens, this is the same number that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People records, although these investigators still have ten other suspicious deaths under study. Since the N. A. A. C. P.'s total is nearly always larger than Tuskegee's, because of different standards of definition (which is far more difficult than many people might suppose), the agreement of these two institutions on the total this year makes five look like the correct number.

Five lynchings in 1940 are two more than 1939's three, as recorded by Tuskegee, but less than 1938's six and even lower than eight lynchings in both 1937 and 1936. Twenty years ago, in 1920, the number was 61, and in 1919 it was 83.

Twenty years hence perhaps all this will seem like a leaf torn from the history of the Dark Ages. But of that it is still impossible to be confident. When mobs murder men for such offenses as attempting to qualify to vote, or for an altercation with a white man, or for wife beating and drunkenness, or for not referring to a white man as "Mr.," which were the offenses charged against four of the five lynchings in 1940 (the fifth charge was attempted rape), one cannot be sure how long it will take for this old blind bitterness and this insensate resort to private vengeance to disappear entirely.

But the advance toward removing mob murders entirely from Southern life is unmistakable. Every institution, every agency, every law official and every individual in the South who has contributed toward the eradication of this old Southern horror can take courage from the record and can continue the long struggle with greater confidence.

News
Birmingham, Ala.

JAN 1941

The Lynching Record

The South in general, and Alabama in particular, suffered a deterioration in the lynching record in 1940. Five lynchings were recorded by Tuskegee Institute, of which two were in Alabama. In 1939 there were only three lynchings in the country, and none in Alabama. For three years, until 1940, Alabama had not been disgraced by a lynching characterized as such on the records of Tuskegee Institute.

The Tuskegee Institute's method of reporting, it may be noted here, has been under fire, especially by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other forces seeking the adoption of national legislation against lynching. These critics declare the institute's reports do not count incidents which should be classed as lynchings.

That criticism may be the reason for the inclusion in the report for 1940 of a note that information was uncertain regarding eight purported lynchings. The institute will be free of some portion of blame should any of these eight undefined cases be established later as lynchings. The uncertainty regarding these eight instances, however, lends at least some emphasis to the idea that the system of reporting lynchings lacks perfect accuracy.

However, the lynching record in 1940, even including the doubtful incidents, gives little support to the argument for federal anti-lynching legislation. State and local authorities still seem to have the matter pretty well in hand. These authorities thwarted 22 attempts at lynching during 1940. Nineteen of these foiled mob attempts were in the South, which is certainly evidence that this section is making earnest efforts to solve one of its major problems.

Chicago Bee
Chicago, Illinois

5 LYNCHED IN '40; GEORGIA LEADS WITH 2

JAN 5 1941

Probe Six Other Cases

According to reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee institute, there were five persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number, three, for 1939; two less than the number, 6, for 1938 and four less than the total of 8 for 1937 and 1936. Four of the victims were Negroes.

Georgia led with two lynchings reported with Alabama and Tennessee, one.

One of the persons lynched, the reports stated, was taken from jail; one was shot to death in jail.

Save 22 From Mobs

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, and 3 of the reported instances were in Northern states. Nineteen instances of law enforcement to balk mob murder were reported in southern states, while 21 instances showed persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken.

In one case armed force was used, thus saving the lives of 28 persons, four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men. Of the persons lynched one was white and three were Negroes. Offenses charged were wife beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with white men.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. the Tuskegee report signed by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute, stated. Georgia again leads with three, with Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana having one each.

JAN 5 1941

Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

TUSKEGEE'S LYNCH TOLL PLACED AT 4

JAN 4 - 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Jan. 2—Four persons, one more than the number three in 1939, were lynched in 1940, according to records just released by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Six persons were lynched in 1938 and eight in each of the years 1937 and 1936.

One of the persons lynched in 1940 was taken from the jail and one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states and 19 in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used.

A total of 28 persons, four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched one was white and three were Negro.

States in which lynchings occurred were Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1, and Tennessee, 1.

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Corrected Count Of '40 Lynchings Includes 1 White

JAN 1 1 1941

A correction of the statement on lynchings of the year 1940 has been issued by the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee institute. According to the corrected statement there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were Negro.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama 2; Georgia 2; and Tennessee 1.

Washington Tribune
Washington, D. C.

LYNCHING SCORE IS 5 FOR 1940, TUSKEGEE SAYS

JAN 1 1 1941

Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama Mobs Kill 4 Negroes, 1 White

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—According to reports compiled by the Department of Records and Research at Tuskegee five persons were lynched in 1940, President F. D. Patterson made public in a release, this week.

"These are two more than the number three for the year 1939, t3 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 5 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 shot to death in jail," the Tuskegee release added.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In I case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched. 1 was white and 4 were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; an altercation with white man, 1, and failure to call white man "mister."

JAN 1 1 1941

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Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

4 LYNCHINGS ARE RECORDED AT TUSKEGEE

President F. D. Patterson Makes Annual Report On Mob Deaths

JAN 3 - 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE. —Four persons, one white and three Negro, were lynched in 1940, according to reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee, President F. D. Patterson reported this week.

This is one more than the number 3 lynched in 1939, two less than the number 6 in 1938 and four less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail and one was shot to death in jail.

All In South

Two of the lynchings occurred in Georgia, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states.

In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with a white man, 1.

Take Precautions

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, three; Tennessee, one, and Louisiana one.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Atrocity Statistics

Tuskegee reported four lynchings this year and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, five—one more than in 1939.

We were poised to write our annual editorial in which we call upon these two national collectors of lynching statistics to confer before issuing their reports.

Representatives for the two institutions did meet several weeks ago and the general view was that they exchanged data.

Then came the divergent statements.

The situation, however, was quickly remedied when the N.A.A.C.P. announced receipt of a telegram from Tuskegee stating that it had made a mistake and the N.A.A.C.P. total is correct.

Thus for the first time our atrocity statistics agree and all is well.

Afro-American
Baltimore, Maryland

Tuskegee Lynchin

JAN 4 - 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. —Four persons were lynched in the United States in 1940, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research at Tuskegee Institute.

Three were colored men and one was white. The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each are: Georgia, 2; Alabama and Tennessee, one each. This record is one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938 and four less than in 1937 and 1936.

28 Saved from Mobs

The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, attemped rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man. There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as incomplete.

There were twenty-two reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, three of these were in Northern States and nineteen in the South. In one case, armed force was used and in the others precautions were taken which saved twenty-eight persons from the hands of mobs.

TUCUMCARI, N. M. NEWS
JAN. 24, 1941

LYNCHINGS STILL OCCUR

Five persons were lynched in the United States in 1940, according to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute in Albania. This is two more than the number three for the year 1939, one less than the number six for the year 1938, and three less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail; one was shot to death in jail. In twenty-two instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

One of the lynchings occurred in Texas.

The crime of lynching has been declining for the last fifty years. During the ten years from 1880 to 1898, inclusive, 1,604 lynchings occurred in the United States. During the last ten years, 1931 through 1940, there were 114 lynchings. That is, the number of lynchings during the last decade is equivalent to only a little more than 7 per cent of the number of lynchings for the ten-year period ended with 1898.

Real progress is being made in the effort to eliminate completely this crime against law and against mankind. Within a period of fifty years the average annual number of lynchings has been cut down from approximately 160 to less than a dozen. And this progress has been made, and is continuing, without the existence of a Federal anti-lynching law. The States are handling the problem. — The Texas Digest.

BARRE VT TIMES
JAN 30 1941

FOR WANT OF A "Mr." DEATH

Making a correction of his original statement that there were four lynchings in the United States during the year 1940, President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee institute, located at a town of that name in Alabama, now declares there were five lynchings, one victim being white and the others Negro. All of the lynchings occurred in Southern states. The recital of the alleged reasons for the executions of these five persons without due process of law is calculated to arouse interest and, in many cases, outraged feelings on the part of the public. According to President Patterson, one man was given the death penalty for wife-beating and drunkenness, one for attempted rape, one for attempting to qualify to vote, one for an altercation with a white man and, finally, one for failure to refer to a white man as "Mr."

This last-named offense would result in a large decimation of population in the United States if the charge were to be applied to white persons as well as for blacks, for, while "Mr." is generally considered as a mark of respect, its non-use is not rated as a heinous offense among whites. Indeed, the use of "Mr." is almost honored in the breach among whites. But, of course, when the allegation of failure to use "Mr." to a white man by a Negro is brought, the connotation of the failure runs back through generations of Americans who consider there is a vast abyss between the social standards of the two races and that the whites are entitled to the prefix as between one-time master and servant. But to kill a Negro for failure to use "Mr." is, truly, a grievous crime in and of itself.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC.

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Moundville, Ala. News
January 2, 1941

Lynching In The United States

According to a report from Tuskegee Institute, there were five lynchings in the United States. One of these, unfortunately, took place in Alabama to put a blot on a perfect record. In 1939 only 3 person were lynched. 28 people were saved from mobs by guards or by removal to other jails.

The offenses for which the 5 men were guilty were: wife-beating and drunkeness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man and failure to call a white man "Mr". Of the five men lynched one was white and four were Negro.

It is a shame that lynching cannot be prevented. Some of the offenses committed by the victims were small and insignificant. Justice could have been meted by the courts. To have to die by force because of a wish to vote, in a country where suffrage is supposed to be universal, is a disgrace, and to kill a man for failing to say "Mr." is inexcusable. All of these people could have been meted punishment to fit their crimes without this wonted violence. Our state, nation and county bear the expenses of courts yet groups of people still take law into their own hands.

Alabama should work hard to reach the goal of NO lynching for 1941—and thus help in giving the nation as a whole a clean record.

Moundville merchants did not have as busy or prosperous a Christmas season in 1940 as they had in 1939. One merchnt says, "the crops were bad this year and people didn't have any money," another said, "people don't trade at home, they either go to other towns or order from Sears-Roebuck."

The constant grumbler blamed it on the three rainy Saturdays prior to Christmas and one Anti-New Dealer blamed it on Roosevelt and the advanced Thanksgiving holiday.

Well, the New Year started yesterday and a fresh beginning for all. May the prosperity that failed to materialize in 1940 pile up in heaps for 1941.

Spartanburg S C Journal
January 8, 1941

Five Lynchings

Five persons were the victims of lynching during during the year 1940, according to the records of the Tuskegee Institute—one white and four negroes. By states the ugly records reads: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; Tennessee, 1. In only one instance was a person lynched on charges of attempting to criminally assault a white woman. The other offenses alleged were trivial.

Education and constant, unremitting warfare against lynch law waged by the press and civic leaders of both races will eventually result in this foul blot being removed from the states.

Prediction: "Ear-marking" is a phrase that will supplant "economy" in usage at the approaching session of the legislature.

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
January 8, 1941

OUR EXCHANGE DESK

Lynching In The United States

According to a report from Tuskegee Institute, there were five lynchings in the United States. One of these, unfortunately, took place in Alabama to put a blot on a perfect record. In 1939 only three persons were lynched; 28 people were saved from mobs by guards or by removal to other jails.

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It is a shame that lynching cannot be prevented. Some of the offenses committed by the victims were small and insignificant. Justice could have been meted by the courts. To have to die by force because of a wish to vote, in a country where suffrage is supposed to be universal, is a disgrace, and to kill a man for failing to say "Mr." is inexcusable. All of these people could have been meted punishment to fit their crimes without this wonted violence. Our state, nation and county bear the expenses of courts, yet groups of people still take law into their own hands.

Alabama should work hard to reach the goal of no lynching for 1941—and thus help in giving the nation as a whole a clean record. — Hale County News (Moundville).

Bassett, Va., Journal
January 9, 1941

Five Lynched In 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last years gives hope that this blot on American civilzation may soon be entirely removed.

Blakeley, Ga., News
January 9, 1941

Georgia contributed two of the five lynchings reported in the United States in 1940. That is a record of which we have no reason to boast.

Sanford, N. C., Herald
January 6, 1941

Lynching Record

The report on lynchings in the United States during 1940, issued by the Tuskegee Institute, is promising in some respects and discouraging in others.

North Carolinians may take pride in the fact that of the five lynchings reported last year, not one occurred in this state. The south as a whole has less reason for pride. All the lynchings happened in the southern states—two in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee.

Another discouraging aspect is that lynchings increased from three in 1939 to five in 1940. Even so, the 1940 record is so much better than that of several decades ago, when lynchings were counted annually by the scores and sometimes by the hundreds, that there is no reason to lose hope that the American people are becoming more law-abiding and civilized, even though setbacks occur from time to time.

The overwhelming majority of people have long held that there is no excuse for lynching, whatever the offense charged, if, as is the case in every state in this country, there is constituted authority to try the alleged offender. A small minority has always attempted to justify the south's lynching record on the grounds that it was necessary to "shield southern womanhood" by this method. Even this ground cannot be given to excuse the 1940 record. None of the lynchings was for the charge of rape, and only one for attempted rape. The other four were for attempting to qualify to vote in one case; altercation with a white man in another; wifebeating and drunkenness in one; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." in one. All these four charges are trivial, and at least two of them would have no standing in a court of law.

The important thing to remember, however, is that lynchings in the United States have been largely eradicated, and that every state should work to keep its record clean and wipe them out altogether.

Bristol, Va., Herald Courier
January 1, 1941

There Were Five Lynchings.

Tuskegee Institute has sent out a correction of its recently-issued statement on the number of lychings this year. Instead of four lynchings, as reported by the Institute a few days ago, there were five, of which one white man and four Negroes were the victims.

Tuskegee stated, in its original report, that the offenses for which the four persons were put to death by mobs were wifebeating and drunkenness 1, altercation with a white man 1, attempted rape 1, and attempting to qualify to vote 1. The States in which the lynchings occurred and the number in each State were Georgia 2, Alabama 1 and Tennessee 1.

The fifth lynching, now reported, was that of a Negro, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." was the crime which he committed and for which he incurred the death penalty at the hands of a mob. This lynching occurred in Alabama and raises that State's number of such outrages for the year to two.

Originally, the lynching mob visited death only upon Negroes who committed crimes against white women, or who were accused of such crimes. But [illegible]ssed, and the mob discovered that it could operate with impunity, which is to say it met with little or no opposition from the law, it expanded its operations to include white people as well as colored, and placed misdemeanors in its list of capital crimes.

So it happens that only one of the five lynchings this year was that of a Negro accused of attempting to rape a white woman. One of the lynchings was for wifebeating and drunkenness, the victim in this instance doubtless being the only white man that was lynched. The other three mob murders were of a Negro for attempting to qualify to vote, of a Negro for engaging in an altercation with a white man, and of a Negro for failing to refer to a white man as "Mr."

Lynchings are on the decline, as compared with several years ago, and the excuses which mobs offer for their crimes become more and more indefensible. The white women of the South long ago condemned mob lawlessness and put the mob on notice that they did not need or desire its "protection." When will the Southern States take such a determined stand against this sinister species of lawlessness, which stands as an insolent challenge to constituted authority, that the mob will not dare take the law in its own hands and kill people of any color, especially people who are guilty of no offense against the law?

[illegible]VILLE KY HERALD
JAN. 16, 1941 P8

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

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According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning in 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Sanford, Fla Herald
December 30, 1940

Lynch Record

In spite of the fact that the number of lynchings showed a slight increase in 1940 over the preceding year, those who are opposed to this form of law violation can take heart that the situation is improving. Over a period extending back hardly more than a generation, the lynching record has shown an almost constant tendency to decline.

This year there were four persons lynched. One of them was white, the rest negroes. Showing how lynching is peculiarly a southern problem, one of these lynchings occurred in Alabama, one in Tennessee and two in Georgia. We are glad to see that Florida this year has a clean record.

This number of four is one more than the number lynched in 1939, but it is two less than the number lynched in 1938, and four less than the number lynched in 1937 and 1936. Thus with the single exception of last year, the lynch record for this year shows an improvement over any year for the past five years, and we believe for any year prior to that time.

Also significant is the fact that officers of the law prevented lynchings in 22 instances. In 21 of these cases, violence was averted by such precautionary measures as removing the offender to a place of safety in plenty of time. In only one instance was it necessary to use armed force to drive off the mob.

The record shows that it is not only possible to prevent lynchings in the South; it is possible to prevent them without bloodshed and without federal interference. Officers of the law duly elected by southern people can do it when they have an aroused public opinion back of them.

Public opinion in the South supports this determination to put down lynchings and if given time will completely solve this problem without well meaning but misguided help from the outside.

Brunswick Ga. News
January 3, 1941

LYNCHING INCREASE

If one would look for the rose rather than the thorn in the annual report of Tuskegee Institute dealing with lynchings during the last year, it is still possible to feel gratification despite the fact that four persons lost their lives at the hands of mobs.

The bright spot of the report is that the lives of 28 persons, threatened with lynchings, were saved by courageous and prompt action on the part of officers of the law. Nineteen of those instances occurred in the south.

It may be argued that this is something of a dubious honor, for it can well be pointed out that it indicates that the south is still too prone to resort to mob rule. And that, of course, is true. But on the other hand it reflects the fact that this section's officers are becoming more conscientious in the discharge of their duties. One regrets to admit that for many years it was an accepted southern "custom" for the sheriff or jailer to turn the keys to the jail over to a mob with little if any protest. In fact, there have been instances when it appeared that officers encouraged the idea of a "necking party."

Two of the more distressing angles of the report, made by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee, are the fact that all four lynchings occurred in the south and that Georgia contributed two of them. The other offending states were Alabama and Tennessee with one each.

Four lynchings a year are too many, just as one lynching is too many. But, while the 1940 record is worse by one crime than the 1939 record, it shows a healthy trend away from this brutal and barbarous practice. The total was two less than the number of six in 1938 and four less than the number of eight for both 1937 and 1936.

One white man and three negroes were mob victims last year. One lynching was the result of an alleged rape attempt, one for drunkenness and wife beating, one for attempting to qualify to vote and the fourth for an altercation with a white man. Of the four "crimes" only one was punishable with death, by law, and it appears highly doubtful in the last two instances that there was any question of law violation involved.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
January 5, 1941

Lynchings Four; Florida Free

The Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings gives Florida a clean record in 1940. Not a single person was lynched here last year. That's a decided contrast to the record in 1939 when two of the three lynchings took place in this state.

The national report, unfortunately, is not so favorable. Four men were lynched during the year, one more than in 1939. But at that, the 1940 record is well below the average during the last few years. In 1938 there were six lynchings, eight in 1937, eight in 1936, twenty in 1935.

Tuskegee also reports commendable improvement in the ability and desire of law enforcement officers to handle mob disturbances. Officers in 22 instances last year cooperated to prevent mob violence. Nineteen of those cases were in Southern states.

Although the record over the last three years indicates lynchings are definitely on the decline throughout the nation, we cannot afford now to relax our efforts to prevent deaths at the hands of mobs. We must not stop until the record is perfect.

Bradenton, Fla., Herald
December 30, 1940

Four Lynchings In 1940

President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, notable negro school founded by the late Booker T. Washington, has released the Institute's annual report on lynchings.

Four men were lynched during 1940, which is one more than the number lynched in 1939, but well below the average number over the past decade. Of the four men lynched, three were colored, one white. Georgia had the worst record, with two lynchings, while Alabama and Tennessee each had one.

The record also goes on to say that there were twenty-two cases where officers prevented mob violence, and of the number nineteen were in Southern states. In these prevented lynchings four white men were among the intended victims.

Lynchings are decidedly on the decline throughout the nation. Which should be sufficient reason for Congress to again put down any attempt to pass a federal anti-lynching bill. It is evident state authorities have the matter of mob violence pretty well in hand.

Rome Ga News-Tribune
December 29, 1940

Lynching Record

From Tuskegee Institute comes the annual report on lynchings in America. Those who are interested in this problem always await the Tuskegee figures, as they are recognized as the most authoritative available to the public.

In 1940, there were four persons lynched in this country. This is one more than the three for 1939, two less than the six for 1938, and four less than the eight for 1936 and 1937. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death while in jail.

The Tuskegee report shows that there were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these instances were in the North; the other 19 were in the South. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used to protect the intended victim. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the four persons lynched, one was white and three were negroes. One was charged with wife-beating and drunkenness, one with attempted rape, one with "attempting to qualify to vote," and one with an altercation with a white man.

The only thing disturbing about the report is that two of the four lynchings occurred in Georgia, the other two being in Alabama and Tennessee. Be that as it may, these figures show more vividly than ever the absurdity of the claims of those who insist that this country needs a federal anti-lynching law. What other major crime is comitted among 130,000,000 people only four times during an entire year? In 1940, there was one more lynching than in 1939, but except for that single year, 1940 brought the best record in history. It becomes more apparent all the time that the states, backed by public opinion, are fully able to cope with this problem themselves without having their rights snatched from them by a few Northern officer-holders who have no motive in their advocacy of a federal anti-lynching law except as to how it will serve them politically.

which it would be senseless not to take.

According to Tuskegee Institute, the year saw only four lynchings. This compares with three for 1939, six for 1938, and eight for 1937 and 1936, and so on back into the shameful past when lynchings ran into the tens and even, before the turn of the century, into the hundreds.

Rarely enough, one of these four lynched persons was a white man. The others were Negroes, as usual, and the states in which the lynchings occurred were the usual Georgia (two), Alabama and Tennessee.

In only one of the lynchings was the offense purported to have been the traditional justification, the attack of a Negro man upon a white woman. The others were "wife-beating and drunkenness," "attempting to qualify to vote," and "an altercation with a white man."

As a hedge against the annual report of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is alert to classify as lynchings what looks more like plain murder, Tuskegee points out that there are six cases in which information is regarded as uncertain or incomplete, so that the figure of four may have to be revised upwards. That would be a setback to the belief that lynching is in full retreat before public opinion and the stout defense of law enforcement agencies.

But against that possibility is the redeeming fact that in 22 reported instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Once mobs everywhere are given to understand that the police, backed up by public opinion, will stand for no snatching of prisoners, the crusade against lynching in the South will have been won without benefit of Federal law.

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 28, 1940

Lynch Record

This Form of Violence Is Almost Entirely Extinguished

So long as a mob takes the law into its own hands and lynches a single victim, public opinion and the law enforcement agencies cannot relax their vigilance. At the same time, there is comfort in the lynching figures for 1940

Report Is Released By 'Skegee

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga

Information Confusing In Six Other Cases

DEC 28 1940

Georgia accounted for two of the four lynchings recorded thus far in 1940, according to a report released Friday by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, as compiled by the Department of Records and Research.

The other two states in which lynchings occurred were Tennessee and Alabama, which had one each.

Six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete, also were reported. These cases are in the following states: Georgia, 3; Alabama, 1; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

The number of persons recorded as lynched in 1940 is one more than the number 3 for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail, while one was shot to death in jail, according to the report.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching, the report said. Three of the reported instances were in northern states and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three colored. The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with a white man, 1.

CHANUTE, KS. TRIBUNE
JAN. 2. 1941

RETURN TO PRIMITIVE

The time that Joe Stoneaxe ran off with Steve Bluntnose's wife Susie, Steve just tracked them down and cut Joe's ears off close up to his head and wore them on a string around his own neck. Nobody thought anything of it and there was very little talk in the neighborhood because that was the way to handle such things back in 50000 B. C.

But in 1940 down in the southern fringe of these United States a Negro failed to refer to a white man as "Mister," so they took the darkie out and strung him up. Another attempted to qualify to vote and got the same treatment, because they have a way of their own in discouraging black folks from voting down south.

In all there were five lynchings last year . . . one white man and four Negroes, according to the annual statement by Tuskegee Institute founded by the famous Booker T. Washington. Two of them occurred in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

We're not going to poke fun at these states for their primitive way of handling unpleasant matters because it hasn't been so long ago that a mob up at Olathe settled an affair the same way and every time we visit our birthplace over in Missouri, they still talk about the time they nailed a man to the rooftree of a schoolhouse and then burned the building.

Lynching and mob violence are born of the same sort of lustful reasoning that prompts men to commit other vicious crimes. Twenty-four hours before a lynching, not one man in a hundred of the possible mob would admit he would take part in such a thing, and 24 hours after it, he probably feels blood upon his hands and shudders in horror.

LYNCHINGS-1940 JAN-DEC. 6567
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

WATERBURY CONN REPUBLICAN
JAN 2 1941

Grievous Crime, Indeed

THE report of the Tuskegee Institute on the number of lynchings for the year just closed is remarkable in two particulars. One of these is the number of cases—six in which investigation is still proceeding and which may, when all the facts are known considerably increase the five lynchings tentatively set down as 1940's total. This amount of unfinished research is unusual and suggests a growing number of instances in which the observer is puzzled in determining whether lynching is the answer or not. And this circumstance would seem to support the claim that appeal to lynch law is not gaining in the deep South but has only gone "underground," as a result of the threat of federal legislation in this matter. Lynchings are no longer flaunted by the action of mobs armed with rope and faggot. Instead, select committees take such affairs in charge with the result that lynchings although undiminished don't attract the attention that threatened for a time to provoke national intervention.

And the second point to be noted in the lynching report is one of the charges against some of the Negroes, whose life as a result was forfeited. In the five cases cited attempted rape, drunkenness and wife beating, and altercations with white men are four of the capital crimes charged but it is the fifth on which attention lingers. For the offense of this culprit is set down as "attempting to qualify to vote."

What gall! What presumption on the part of an American citizen! Did this misguided soul suppose that we could for a moment tolerate in this country such a thing as universal suffrage? Well, he learned differently. He discovered that in the South, at least, there are special qualifications for the privilege of casting a ballot. He learned it at the cost of his life!

And this in the 1940th year of the Christian era, of the independence of the United States the 164th, and since the amendment to the federal Constitution saying that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude" the 70th!

ELKHART IND TRUTH
THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1941

LYNCHINGS

For many years now, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, down in Alabama, has kept a record of lynchings. And each year at this time he sends to newspapers the results of his record keeping.

According to Mr. Patterson's 1940 figures, five persons were lynched in the United States during the year just ended.

Of the persons lynched, one was white, four colored. Georgia had two of the lynchings, Alabama two and Tennessee one.

Although the number in 1940 was two more than in the preceding year, it was two less than in 1938, and four less than occurred in 1937 and 1936 each. The fact that, over a period of years, the number of these crimes is diminishing is the encouraging note revealed by these records.

TEMPLE, OK. TRIBUNE
JAN. 9, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940.

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940; one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

WACO, TEX. NEWS-TRIBUNE
JAN. 13, 1941

U. S. Lynchings Dwindle

The Tuskegee Institute has made its annual report showing there were four lynchings in the United States in 1940, as compared with three in 1939.

The increase over 1939 does not mean that the country has taken a turn for the worse. Over a period of five decades or more there have been fluctuations in the incidence of mob violations. The high mark was 231 in 1832; 1939 provided the low.

Mob violence must be considered, like any other evil, in its relative position, not in an attempt to mitigate it but in order to understand the degree of seriousness. In any year, whether three or four, or even one, it is too many. Mob violence is more harmful to the violators than to their victims. These die, of course. But left behind is impairment of moral values, disrespect for legal procedure, a relapse to barbarism that necessitates anew the long climb from the primitive to civilized.

Force of public opinion has done a great part in reducing mob violence. In state after state the record has been kept clean. The process of complete elimination can be hastened. It cannot move too fast.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

Corrects Lynch Record

JAN 11 1941

Editor The New York Age:

Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegee Institute on lynchings as follows:

There were five persons lynched in 1940. One was white and four were Negroes.

The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occuring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President

Tuskegee Institute
JAN 14 1941

NEW BEDFORD MASS STANDARD TIMES
JAN 2 1941

LYNCHING RECORD

The 1940 record of lynchings, as reported by Tuskegee Institute, is not the worst in recent years, but it is bad enough. Five persons were lynched, of whom four were Negroes; and the states in which mob law was resorted to were Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

There is no justification for lynching anywhere in this country, least of all in the case of Negro offenders in the South, since in that region there never can be the slightest chance that Negroes proved guilty of crime will be able to escape punishment through failure of the courts. It is a blot on the scutcheons of the states mentioned that mobs should have taken the law into their own hands, and that blot seems all the more shameful when the offenses which prompted lynching in these five cases are examined. They were wife-beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, altercation with a white man, attempting to qualify to vote, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mister." The second alone comes anywhere near the particular crime for which lynching has been held justified as necessary to protect the honor of Southern women. By what process of reasoning trying to qualify to vote, failure to call a white man "Mister," and having an altercation with a white man, are held to justify mob murder, passes understanding. In the light of such "crimes," the 1940 lynching record should win support for a Federal anti-lynching law in the next Congress.

Portsmouth, Va. Star
February 9, 1941

Four Lynchings In U. S. In 1940

Tuskegee Institute reports that according to their Department of Records and Research there were four lynchings in the United States during 1940.

Of the four persons lynched they report, one was white, three were Negroes. The lynchings occurred in the following states: Alabama 1, Tennessee 1, and Georgia 2.

There were also 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, the Institute states.

Clinton, N. C., Independent
January 9, 1941

LYNCHING RECORD

Figures released recently by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, show that there were five lynchings in the United States during the year 1940. Of the number lynched one was white and four Negroes. States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

This report is discouraging to all who are opposed to mob violence in the sense that it shows an increase in lynchings over the previous year, but at the same time it is encouraging when compared to the number of lynchings of only a few years ago.

There is evidence, depsite the increase last year, that the people of the United States generally disapprove mob violence, regardless of the provocation, and are willing to let such matters be handled by the courts.

The state of North Carolina maintained its record of no lynchings during 1940, a proud record of several years standing.

Clayton, Ala., Record
January 24, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attemtping to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1930, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hops that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

LYNCHINGS*1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN*DEC

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Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lynch Figures Take Upward Turn First Time In Years

JAN 1 1 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala.—The lynching curve on the nation's graph took a slightly upward turn for the year 1940 after a continuous downward trend for the past several years. This year's figure of five, released this week officially by the Tuskegee Institute's department of records and research, represents an increase of two over last year's record low of three.

For the three years prior to 1941, the curve had taken a decided downward trend. There were three last year, six in 1938, and eight in both 1937 and 1936.

Of the five lynched this year, one was taken from jail and one other was shot to death in jail. President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee released the lynching statistics.

FURTHER FACTS

Further analysis of the lynching figures for this year, as calculated by Tuskegee Institute, long a leader in supplying information on lynching reveals the following additional facts:

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

BUT ONE RAPE CHARGE

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkeness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; an altercation with white man, one; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," one.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, two; and Tennessee, one.

SIX CASES INCOMPLETE

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, one; Georgia, three; Tennessee, one, and Louisiana, one.

JAN 1 1941

CURTIS NEB. ENTERPRISE
FEB. 6, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assault on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211 in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

UNIONTOWN PA NEWS STANDARD
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1941

Discouraging Lynchers

One more lynching occurred during 1940 than in 1939, the total being four, according to reports compiled at Tuskegee Institute, but the brighter side of the picture is the fact that officers prevented mob law from taking effect in twenty-two instances—three times in Northern States and nineteen times in Southern States. Tuskegee reports that twenty-eight persons, four of them white, were thus saved from the hands of rioters bent on mass murder.

Public encouragement has considerably strengthened the hands of public officials, who often in the past turned their backs upon lynchers. Moreover, mobs are notoriously cowardly. Hence law officers have learned, by practice, that a show of resistance—often the mere sight of a weapon in the hand of a sheriff or jailer ready to use it—has been sufficient to halt those who would take the law into their own hands.

WAURIKA, OK. NEWS-DEMOCRAT
JAN. 31, 1941 F25

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

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Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 white. Since 1883, a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Jackson, Tenn. Sun
January 1, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS OCCUR IN 1940, THREE ARE NEGROES

Four lynchings occurred in 1940, according to statistics compiled by F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee (Ala.) Institute who submits the following report to the press:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

"There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1."

Eufaula, Ala. Tribune
January 27, 1941

Four Lynchings

The annual report on lynchings by Tuskegee Institute lists four such crimes during 1940; which is four too many, but is still a small number compared with the 255 reported in 1892.

Since there were only three lynchings in 1939, and to find more than 10 one must go back several years, it seems reasonable to suppose that the crime of lynching is a disappearing one.

If any other offense showed an equally infrequent occurrence, it would hardly be considered worth statistical consideration.

Yet it seems likely that, for political reasons, the perennial misnamed Federal anti-lynching bill will appear in Congress, to be passed as usual by the House and properly killed in the Senate.

No one has yet explained why the Federal government should pick out one particular crime, and leave all others under state jurisdiction; and particularly a crime which, through the development of healthy local public sentiment, is all but wiped out.

Passage of the Federal enactment would be a slap in the face to the people of the states that have made an excellent record and would, in fact, be more likely to encourage lynching than to suppress it.

A much better argument could be made for a Federal law to control automobile accidents, which take nearly 40,000 lives a year—10,000 times as many as lynching.—The Los Angeles Times.

Anniston, Ala. Star
February 24, 1941

Lynching Report

Although the latest report on lynching from the Tuskegee Institute shows a continued restraint in the South, it is not at all pleasant to reflect that four persons were killed in the South by mob action in 1940. Until the toll of lynching in the South is reduced to zero, we should not be content. The law of lynch is outmoded and if allowed to go unchecked it will lead back to the days of the Ku Klux Klan and lawlessness in other quarters.

Of the four persons lynched last year, all of them in the South, one was from Alabama. Two others were in Georgia—the Ku Klux Klan scandal in that state—and one in Tennessee.

Looking over the report, we find that officers were on their jobs, alert for any mob action, during the year. Twenty-two attempts to lynch were reportedly prevented by law officers. Three of the reported instances were in the North, the other 19 in the South. As a result 28 persons were saved from mobs.

The lynch report shows several causes, none of which constituted a capital crime. Three Negroes were killed for these reasons: attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man. A white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness. Outside of the attempt to rape, none of the three Negroes was accused of a criminal offense.

In addition to this definite information from Tuskegee, it is reported that evidence is insufficient in six other cases to determine lynching. Of these one case was in Alabama, three in Georgia and one each in Tennessee and Louisiana.

The number of definite lynchings was one more than for the previous year, but it does not indicate a need for an oppressive federal law which would invade the rights of states to their own criminal control. The Star is opposed to a federal lynch bill, not only because lynchings are becoming so few but for the far greater cause of states rights.

Every Tuskegee report—and we appreciate the reports very much—shows lynchings which have occurred in the South. Yet there are numerous murders coming under that head in the North. Northern law officers, however, are not frank enough to call them lynchings.

Newspapers and officers of the South will continue to exert their best efforts to stop lynchings entirely. They will work on their own initiative and not because of criticism from the North or the continual threat of a federal lynch law. We will do the job because it is one that should be done, because mob violence can lead to terrible things. Southerners retain a strong sense of honor, which must be rationalized and diverted into the right channels.

Ozark, Ala., Star
December 19, 1940

South Reports Four Lynchings For Year

TUSKEGEE, Ala. — Representatives of more than a score of groups, meeting here in an "effort to stabilize the records regarding lynchings," have agreed that four deaths reported last year came under their new-formed definition of a lynching.

Killing of a man at the hands of a group "which killed under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition" was set up as the definition of a lynching.

Eleven deaths reported by various groups as lynchings this year were discussed by the representatives who were headed by Dr. Frederick Douglas Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute.

Two of the four classified as lynchings occurred in Georgia, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

The session, held over the week end, was attended by representatives of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynchings, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Fisk and Atlanta Universities, The Associated Negro Press, Time and Life Magazines and a number of Southern newspapers.

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LYNCHINGS -1940 JAN- DEC.
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

Burlington, N. C., Times-News
December 30, 1940

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

CONSIDERING THE various states of the Union, their multiple million inhabitants, the emotion stirring and provoking crimes among them, the record of four lynchings in the year 1940 to date—with but one day to go—is commendable. But it could be improved.

The record is one more person killed by mob frenzy in 1940 than in 1939 when three persons were victims of non-legal killings in the United States. There should be none in the new year 1941.

The report is based on research records of Tuskegee (Negro) Institute, Alabama, as released from the office of F. D. Patterson, president. The Institute has for many years waged an active, educational campaign to prevent lynchings in the United States, mob killing of any nationality, to permit the law to pursue an orderly course of punishment for crime of whatever nature against society.

Southern states contributed the total number of lynchings: Two in Georgia, one in Alabama, and one in Tennessee. The alleged charges were: Wife beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man. But one of the four was white, the other three negroes. Officers are reported to have prevented twenty-two attempts to lynch, three in northern states and nineteen in Southern states. Six other cases are listed with information "uncertain or incomplete," all in the Southern states.

There was a time when leadership in the South considered stern measures necessary to control and discourage major crime. The population was scattered and enforcement officers few. Law within their own hands was the weapon of defense among those who respected their own and the rights of others and would have as much in return.

But there is no reason today, if there ever was, for mob violence in the frenzy of anger and excitement. Surrender culprits to the law. Let the law take its due and just course.

Tifton, Ga. Gazette
December 31, 1940

FIVE LYNCHINGS REPORTED

Tuskegee, Ala.—There were five persons lynched in 1940, one white and four negroes, according to a statement issued by Tuskegee Institute.

The offenses charged were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occuring in each state were as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

Savannah, Ga., Press
December 27, 1940

FOUR LYNCHINGS ARE REPORTED FOR 1940

Tuskegee Institute Reports Two in Georgia.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec. 27.—The report of Tuskegee Institute of lynchings during 1940 records four, two of which the reports shows occurred in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee are credited with one each. The report showed an increase of one over 1939.

Of the persons lynched, the report stated, one was white and three were negroes. The offenses charged were: Wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted assault, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; altercation with white man, one. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail and another was shot to death in jail, the report states.

The report states there are six cases concerning which information is uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Georgia, 3; Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana, 1 each.

Gastonia, N. C. Gazette
December 27, 1940

Open Forum

REPORT ON LYNCHINGS FROM TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

To the Editor of The Gazette:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, that there were four persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; and an altercation with white man, one.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, one; and Tennessee, one.

There were six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded is uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, one; Georgia, three; Tennessee, one; and Louisiana, one.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON
President.

Washington, N C News
December 30, 1940

LYNCH RECORD

This Form of Violence Is Almost Entirely Extinguished

So long as a mob takes the law into its own hands and lynches a single victim, public opinion and the law enforcement agencies cannot reflax their vigilance. At the same time, there is comfort in the lynching figures for 1940 which it would be senseless not to take.

Acording to Tuskegee Institute, the year saw only four lynchings. This compares with three for 1939, six for 1933, and eight for 1937 and 1936, and so on back into the shameful past when lynchings ran into the tens and even, before the turn of the century, into the hundreds.

Rarely enough, one of these four lynched persons was a white man. The others were Negroes, as usual, and the states in which the lynchings occurred were the usual Georgia (two), Alabama and Tennessee.

In only one of the lynchings was the offense purported to have been the traditional justification, the attack of a Negro man upon a white woman. The others were "wife-beating and drunkenness," "attempting to qualify to vote," adn "an altercation with a white man."

As a hedge against the annual report of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which is alert to classify as lynchings what looks more like plain murder, Tuskegee points out that there are six cases in which information is regarded as uncertain or incomplete, so that the figure of four may have to be revised upwards. That would be a setback to the belief that lynching is in full retreat before public opinion and the stout defense of law enforcement agencies.

But against that possibility is the redeeming fact that in 22 reported instances officers of the law prevented lynchings. Once mobs everywhere are given to understand that the police, backed up by public opinion, will stand for no snatching of prisoners, the crusaed aginst lynching in the South will have been won without benefit of Federal law. — Charlotte News.

Savannah, Ga., Press
December 30, 1940

FIVE LYNCHINGS NOW REPORTED FOR YEAR

Tuskagee Correction Adds One to the List.

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala., Dec., 30.—A revised lynching report released by Tukegee Institute records five lynchings for 1940 instead of four previously reported. This is an increase of two over last year.

The lynchings occurred in the following state, according to the report: Georgia 2, Alabama 2, Tennessee 1.

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

JAN 31 1940

Lynchings in 1940

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were four persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number three for the year 1939; two less than the number six for the year 1938 and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern States and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern States. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1, and an altercation with white man, 1.

JAN 31 1940

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1, and Tennessee, 1.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following States: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1, and Louisiana, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

[Comment on the foregoing letter appears today on this page, under the caption, "A Definition of Lynching."—Editor.]

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

JAN 31 1940

A Definition of Lynching

ONE more lynching occurred in 1940 than in 1939, but there were only four, all told, and one of the four victims was a white man, it is revealed by PRESIDENT PATTERSON of Tuskegee Institute in his annual compilation, published at the head of today's Voice of the People. Four is four too many, of course, and the time must come when there are no lynchings in the South, or the United States, but it is impossible to deny that progress has been made. The decline in the total has been steady for five successive years, with the exception of the regrettable increase of one during the year now ending.

PRESIDENT PATTERSON held a conference of Southern leaders at Tuskegee the middle of this month, for the purpose of arriving at a formula whereby lynchings might be satisfactorily defined. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been using a different definition from Tuskegee, with the result that the N. A. A. C. P. lynching total has almost invariably been larger than that of the Alabama institute. It was partly for the purpose of reconciling this discrepancy, in so far as practicable, that the parley was held.

JAN 31 1940

The Tuskegee conferees reached the conclusion that the death of a man or woman at the hands of a group "which killed under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition," would constitute a lynching. As the N. A. A. C. P. was represented at the gathering, it presumably concurred in that definition. Whether the organization's lynching total for the country in 1940 will agree with that of Tuskegee, and be no more than four, remains to be seen. No announcement has been forthcoming on the point, as far as we are aware.

It seems manifestly unreasonable to classify as "lynchings" the three killings of white persons murdered near Atlanta last spring. The N. A. A. C. P. had termed these deaths lynchings, but perhaps it has receded from that position. The public will await with interest announcement of its attitude. It is to be hoped that Tuskegee and the association will have the same figures hereafter, and thus end the uncertainty which has existed in the public mind, as a result of their past disagreements.

Times-Dispatch
Richmond, Va.

JAN - 1 1941

Another Was Lynched

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegee Institute on lynchings as follows:

There were five persons lynched in 1940. One was white and four were Negro.

The offenses charged were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each State are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2, and Tennessee, 1. F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Ala.

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REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

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South Pittsburg, Tenn., Hustler
January 2, 1941

GEORGIA HOLDS LYNCHING LEAD; TWO OUT OF 4

ALABAMA ONE, TENNESSEE ONE, STATISTICS REVEAL

Wife-Beating, Drunkenness, Attempted Rape, Attempting to Quality to Vote, Altercation With White Man, Some of Causes For Disturbances.

In his annual report on lynchings in the south, F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, recounts that during 1940 there were four persons lynched, one white man and three negroes. According to the institute head, this is one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1936 and 1937. One of the persons lynched the past year was taken from the jail and one was shot to death in jail.

President Patterson goes on to say that there were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1 ,and Tennessee, 1.

Greeneville, Tenn., News-Bulletin
January 2, 1941

TENNESSEE HAS ONE OF FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1940

Of the four lynchings by mobs, which occurred during 1940, one was in Tennessee, two in Georgia and the fourth in Alabama, Tuskegee Institute reported last night.

The Institute makes annual studies on lynchings and other forms of mob violence.

Three of the four victims were Negroes, the fourth a white man.

The four cases compare with three for 1939, six for 1938 and eight for 1937.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings, the Institute said.

New Orleans, La., Times-Picayune
January 12, 1941

Only four Lynchings

Nothing much has been said about the Wagner anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, but that is no assurance that it won't be brought up again. Last year being election time, rabid politicians in Congress were burning with the fervor of reform. Much important legislation involving neutrality and armaments didn't stop them but a drop in the number of lynchings to three during the previous year did serve to unmask the low-grade politics behind the bill.

In 1940, Tuskegee Institute statistics now reveal, lynching remained almost nonexistent. Four mob deaths occurred, compared with the three of 1939. There has been a sharp and steady decline in the lynchings since 1935, when there were 30. Twenty years ago mob violence was taking a toll of 50 to 60 a year.

There never has been sufficient excuse for the federal encroachment upon state sovereignty contemplated by this politically inspired scheme and now even the ghost of the excuse is gone. Education, public opinion and the vigilance of local and state officers have achieved results which make partisan political congressmen look foolish when they invoke the time-worn anti-lynching bill device to bid for the Negro vote. Within a few years, no doubt, this type of mobbery will disappear except in rare instances of extreme public outrage which may occur in any state. And with it will go the incentive to resort to about the lowest type of politics ever played on Capitol Hill.

PAWLING N Y NEWS CHRON
THURS JANUARY 9 1941 WEEKLY

END OF LYNCHINGS IN SIGHT

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, famous Negro school, states that four persons were lynched in the United States in 1940. Three cases are being investigated. A total number of 28 persons, four whites included, were saved from the attacks of armed mobs.

One of the lynched persons was a white man. Rape was charged in but one case. The other charged offenses were wife beating and drunkenness, attempting to qualify to vote, and altercation with a white man.

The report is cheerful. There was one more lynching than in 1939, and four less than the number of each of the years 1936 and 1937.

The South is displaying the desire and the ability to stop lynching. Presently it will be as free from this offense as any other section.

It is unnecessary to continue the squabble over the anti-lynching law which is perennially fought over in Congress, a source of division among the people, a cause of sectional hatreds.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
January 16, 1941

Four Lynchings

(The Los Angeles Times)

The annual report on lynchings by Tuskegee Institute lists four such crimes during 1940; which is four too many, but is still a small number compared with the 255 reported in 1892.

Since there were only three lynchings in 1939, and to find more than 10 one must go back several years, it seems reasonable to suppose that the crime of lynching is a disappearing one.

If any other offense showed an equally infrequent occurrence, it would hardly be considered worth statistical consideration.

Yet it seems likely that, for political reasons, the perennial misnamed federal anti-lynching bill will appear in Congress, to be passed as usual by the House and properly killed in the Senate.

No one has yet explained why the federal government should pick out one particular crime, and leave all others under state jurisdiction; and particularly a crime which, through the development of health local public sentiment, is all but wiped out.

Passage of the federal enactment would be a slap in the face to the people of the states that have made an excellent record and would, in fact, be more likely to encourage lynching than to suppress it.

A much better argument could be made for a federal law to control automobile accidents, which take nearly 40,000 lives a year—10,000 times as many as lynching.

Hold our Republic as the ultimate hope of man.—Rev. James Shera Montgomery, chaplain of the House, opening new session of Congress.

Those who fear the future are not anxious to help a neighbor fight for it.—Samuel Grafton in the New Republic.

COFFEYVILLE, KS. JOURNAL
JAN. 8, 1941 J24

Editorials of the Day

Lynching on the Way Out

(Topeka Journal)

As the seventy-seventh anniversary of the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation arrives, statistics on lynchings during 1940 are released by the famous Negro institute, of Tuskegee, Ala.

During the year, four persons lost their lives at the hands of mobs, one more than in 1939, but two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1936 and 1937.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings, three in northern states and 19 in southern districts. In 21 of the cases, the persons were removed, guards augmented and other precautions taken to save the lives of the prisoners.

In his famous Emancipation Proclamation issued January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln declared that all slaves in the states then in rebellion would be "thenceforth and forever free." The 1940 records shows progress, slow but noteworthy, toward the point at which a practice as black as slavery, in the spots where it exists, will disappear.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 12, 1941

Lynching Toll Still Down

For the fifth successive year 1940 showed a lynching toll below 10. According to Tuskegee Institute, which has long kept the score, only five persons were lynched last year. Of these one was white and four Negroes. The lynchings occurred in Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Thus the evidence continues that lynching is on the way out in the United States. Compare the nine of 1936, the eight of 1937, the six of 1938, the five of 1939, to take the highest of disputed figures for that year, the five of 1940 with the 231 lynchings of 1892.

The South, which has been the worst offender, is cleaning itself up without a federal statute. Officers of the law in these Southern states now get a backing in doing their duty which was formerly absent. Southern sentiment can now be counted definitely against lynching. It cannot be long now before that sentiment will be strong enough to stop even the irresponsibles who still try to take the law into their own hands.

Yet the United States will be shamed so long as any part of this outrage remains. How great and indefensible an outrage it is appears in Tuskegee Institute's list of the offenses charged against the five persons lynched in 1940. They were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," 1. Tuskegee does not inform us which of these offenses was charged against the one white man lynched. Obviously it could hardly have been any one of the last three. This list of charged offenses makes its own comment.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Gladbrook, Ia., Northern
FRI., JAN. 17, 1941—WEEKLY

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only 5 persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939, which was t he lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

CAVE CITY KY. PROGRESS
JAN. 3, 1941 J28

Lynchings in 1940

There were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were colored.

The offenses charged were: Wife beating and drunkenness 1; attempted rape 1; attempting to qualify to vote 1; altercation with a white man 1; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Alabama 2; Georgia 2; and Tennessee 1.

HENDERSVILLE, KY. NEWS
JAN. 2, 1941 J27

FOUR LYNCHINGS DURING 1940

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were four persons lynched in 1940 This is one more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states.. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons .... 4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men .... were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama 1; and Tennessee, 1.

Blakeley, Ga., News
January 30, 1941

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

There were four lynchings in the United States during 1940, an increase of one over the year before. Officers prevented mob violence from taking effect in twenty-two instances, four of the persons being white and the remainder negroes. The people in no section of the country longer condone lynchings and the diminishing number of such lawless acts is a healthy and hopeful sign of the times.—The Walton Tribune.

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Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

JAN 12 1941

Only Four Lynchings

Nothing much has been said about the Wagner anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, but that is no assurance that it won't be brought up again. Last year being election time, rabid politicians in Congress were burning with the fervor of reform. Much important legislation involving neutrality and armaments didn't stop them but a drop in the number of lynchings to three during the previous year did serve to unmask the low-grade politics behind the bill.

In 1940, Tuskegee Institute statistics now reveal, lynching remained almost nonexistent. Four mob deaths occurred, compared with the three of 1939. There has been a sharp and steady decline in the lynchings since 1935, when there were 30. Twenty years ago mob violence was taking a toll of 50 to 60 a year.

JAN 12 1941

There never has been sufficient excuse for the federal encroachment upon state sovereignty contemplated by this politically inspired scheme and now even the ghost of the excuse is gone. Education, public opinion and the vigilance of local and state officers have achieved results which make partisan political congressmen look foolish when they invoke the time-worn anti-lynching bill device to bid for the Negro vote. Within a few years, no doubt, this type of mobbery will disappear except in rare instances of extreme public outrage which may occur in any state. And with it will go the incentive to resort to about the lowest type of politics every played on Capitol Hill.

KANSAS CITY, MO. STAR
JAN. 6, 1941 J7

Make the Total Record Clean.

In one respect mob violence is like every other evil. It needs to be considered in its relative position—not by way of mitigating it but in order to understand the degree of its seriousness. The Tuskegee Institute makes its annual report showing there were four lynchings in the United States in 1940, compared with only three in 1939.

In any year, whether the number be four or three or but one, it is too many. This country at last should be free from the disgrace. There is good reason to believe it will be. The increase of one last year does not mean the evil has taken a permanent turn for the worse. Over a half century and more, there have been fluctuations in the instances of mob violence. But the general trend has been downward—from the high mark of 231 in 1892 to the low of three in 1939.

The work has been done by education, by the force of public opinion and by the growing vigilance of local and state agencies of the law. In state after state the record has been kept clean. Last year only three—Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee—suffered the shame and humiliation of the lawlessness. Let them become more than ever alert to join the ranks of the others. The process of elimination can be hastened. It cannot move too fast.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Three States Disgraced

JAN 11 1941

Every American ought to be chagrined at the report coming from Tuskegee Institute showing an increase in lynchings last year. It is true that the total number of these mob murders is not large. Only four lives were claimed by infuriated gangs taking the law into their own hands, compared with three lynchings in 1939. But that black mark against American democracy seems particularly inexcusable at a time when this Nation is throwing its influence into the balance against barbarous practices in other parts of the world.

Of course, the report from Tuskegee is not without its brighter aspects. The victims of mob violence in 1940 were only half as numerous as they were in both 1936 and 1937. The current report is the most favorable for any year, except 1939. Tuskegee's department of records and research found, moreover, that 28 persons had been saved from the hands of mobs by officers of the law. Obviously the law-enforcement officials of the Southern States are far more diligent in protecting the lives of accused persons than they were a few years ago. And all but three of the States kept their records entirely clear of lynchings in 1940.

Those three States—Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee—have taken the full disgrace of the 1940 lynchings upon themselves. A year ago every State except Florida and Mississippi had cleared its records. Was it the stigma which attached to them for keeping this barbarous custom alive in 1939 that inspired Mississippi and Florida to prevent mob murders within their borders during 1940? In any event, the three States which permitted mob violence to be substituted for fair trial in 1940 should now feel the full reproach of the American people for these outrages. The indignation of the people will be intensified by the fact that one of the Negroes who was lynched was merely attempting to qualify to vote. Another met his fate, according to the Tuskegee report, because of an "altercation with a white man."

Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee owe a duty to the American people to prevent any recurrence of this disgusting practice in 1941. If they devote themselves earnestly to that task, it will be accomplished far more satisfactorily than it ever could be through the enactment of an unconstitutional Federal anti-lynching law.

TOPEKA KS. CAPITAL
JAN. 4, 1941 J22

Blot Upon Three States

All but three of the states kept their records entirely clear of lynchings in 1940, according to reports compiled at the Tuskegee Institute. Four persons were victims of mob violence. In twenty-eight attempted lynchings the officers stepped in and thwarted the fury of white men set upon killing persons either accused or suspected of law violations.

Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee allowed lynchings last year. Thus they bear the brunt of public indignation. The fact that one Negro was beaten to death by a mob because he attempted to qualify to vote does not set well with other states where the franchise is extended to all people, regardless of race, color or creed.

The saving of twenty-eight lives by officers illustrates that mobs can be stopped if the representatives of law and order perform their sworn duty. Concern lest the proposed Federal antilynch law get thru Congress caused a tightening of law enforcement in the South, and in 1939 only three persons were victims of mobs. That law, stopped by a filibuster led by Southern Senators, would have made the officers responsible when a prisoner in their custody was lynched.

The barbaric mob violence, sometimes allowed to be substituted for fair trial in the Southern states, is a disgrace to the whole nation. These states put up a dismal wail when it is proposed that the Federal Government, representing all of the citizens of the nation, stop the lynching in the South. They scream for "state's rights," and then allow practices that put a blot upon their own section and cause every other state to bear a share of the disgrace. No other civilized people resort to lynching when crimes are committed.

AUSTIN, TEX STATESMAN
JAN. 9, 1941 J15

Public Opinion a Great Force In Reducing Mob Lynchings Year by Year

The Tuskegee institute has made its annual report showing there were four lynchings in the United States in 1940 as compared with three in 1939.

The increase over 1939 does not mean that the country has taken a turn for the worse. Over a period of five decades or more there have been fluctuations in the incidence of mob violations. The high mark was 231 in 1892; 1939 provided the low.

Mob violence must be considered, like any other evil, in its relative position, not in an attempt to mitigate it but in order to understand the degree of seriousness. In any year, whether three or four, or even one, it is too many. Mob violence is more harmful to the violators than to their victims. These die, of course. But left behind is widely diffused impairment of moral values, disrespect for legal procedure, a relapse to barbarism that necessitates anew the long climb from the primitive to civilized.

Force of public opinion has done a great part in reducing mob violence. In state after state the record has been kept clean. The process of complete elimination can be hastened. It cannot move too fast.

TROY N Y TIMES RECORD
THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1941

LYNCHING.

During the year 1940, according to the statistics collected by Tuskegee Institute, four persons were lynched in the South, two in Georgia, one in Alabama and one in Tennessee. Three of the four were Negroes only one of whom was illegally executed for the single crime which, in the opinion of certain Southern apologists, justifies lynching. One of the men was lynched for trying to qualify as a voter, one for having an argument with a white man.

Yet, despite the fact that lynchings still exist, four in the entire country in a year is hardly a sufficient blot on the national record to warrant the centralization of authority in the Washington government by a special law to make the crime of lynching a federal offense. Apparently the gradual education of backwoods areas of the South and a growing respect for court action are doing the job far better than it could be done through action of Congress. This merely makes a good political rallying-cry; nothing more.

Lynching is horrible, and inexcusable. Those engaged in such a murderous occupation should be arrested, tried, sentenced and punished. No matter how thoroughly the mobs engaged in such a deed consider themselves 'Southern gentlemen," they are really thugs and criminals, no whit better than the racketeers of our big Northern cities.

But to dignify their crimes by appealing to the federal authorities is not necessary. There are far more racketeer murders in the metropolises of the North than lynchings in the entire South. Let us not point the finger at the one while the other is still unrestrained.

Negro Labor News
Houston. Texas

Report From Tuskegee Institute List Five Lynchings In 1940

JAN 4 1941

TUSKEGEE, INSTITUTE, Ala.—A report from the Tuskegee Institute Bureau of Research places the number of lynchings in the United States during 1940 at five.

Of the five lynched, four were Negroes and one white man.

Offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkeness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which the lynchings occured and the number occuring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

The lynching in Tennessee startled the entire nation and was the one case listed among the lynchings caused by attempting to qualify to vote.

Journal and Guide
Norfolk, Virginia

Lynchings Increase During Year 1940

JAN 11 1941

THE release, this week, of the 1940 lynching figures by Tuskegee Institute reveals some interesting facts about the nature and character of mob murder and at the same time reveals the alarming truth that for the first time in recent years, the lynching evil has increased, numerically, after several years of consistent decreasing.

This decrease in the lynching incidence had been used by opponents to federal anti-lynching legislation as indicative of the manner in which states could themselves solve the problem if let alone.

While in all fairness it must be admitted that more alert local officials, in many cases during 1940, prevented lynchings, it must be remembered that this year's statistics, properly analyzed, show that the new style lynch technique was widely used during the year just past and that the figure five is merely an illusion.

JAN 11 1941

The countless other killings which were done quietly by a few self appointed guardians of "white supremacy" or "Southern womanhood" could not be listed here.

Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tennessee

Lynchings In '40 Totalled Five

JAN 5 1941

Arkansas and Mississippi Had Clean Records

To The Commercial Appeal:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than tne number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 4 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; an altercation with white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 5 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON.
President, Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

Lynching Figures Released

JAN 4 1941

Tuskegee Institute, Ala.
December 19, 1940.

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

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JAN 4 1941

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, when the Negro failed to refer to the white man as "Mister," 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

LYNCHING-1940
RRPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC.

6572

Clover, S. C., Herald
January 2, 1941

FOUR LYNCHINGS REPORTED IN '40

Tuskegee Institute Records Show Comparison With Past

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., Dec. 31.—President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute announced today that according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, of Tuskegee there were four persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the three for the year 1939, two less than the six for 1938, and four less than the eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; and an altercation with a white man, one.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are: Georgia, two; Alabama, one; and Tennessee, one.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, one; Georgia, three; Tennessee, one; and Louisiana, one.

McKenzie, Tenn. Banner
January 3, 1941

SOUTHERN OFFICERS HALT 19 LYNCHINGS

The downward trend in lynchings was maintained during 1940, according to the annual report from Tuskegee Institute, although there was one more lynching in the South in 1940 than in 1939.

Records of the Institute show that four persons met death by mob violence during the year, one more than in 1939, two less than in 1938, and four less than in 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail and one shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of cases in which officers of the law prevented lynchings and 19 of these cases occured in the South.

Of the 1940 lynchings on which information is complete, two occured in Georgia, one in Tennessee and one in Alabama.

Monroe, Ga., Tribune
January 24, 1941

There were four lynchings in the United States during 1940, an increase of one over the year before. Officers prevented mob violence from taking effect in twenty-two instances, four of the persons being white and the remainder negroes. The people in no section of the country longer condone lynching and the diminishing number of such lawless acts is a healthy and hopeful sign of the times.

La Follette, Tenn., Press
January 10, 1941

Peoples Column

FIVE LYNCHINGS DURING 1940, TUSKEGEE REPORT

Dear Sir:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the nuber 8 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 4 were Negro. The fences charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1, and one for failure to refer to a white man as "Mr."

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON
President.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 18, 1941

Only Four Lynchings.

New Orleans Times-Picayune: Nothing much has been said about the Wagner anti-lynching bill at this session of Congress, but that is no assurance that it won't be brought up again. Last year being election time, rabid politicians in Congress were burning with the fervor of reform. Much important legislation involving neutrality and armaments didn't stop them, but a drop in the number of lynchings to three during the previous year did serve to unmask the low-grade politics behind the bill.

In 1940, Tuskegee Institute statistics now reveal, lynching remained almost nonexistent. Four mob deaths occurred, compared with the three of 1939. There has been a sharp and steady decline in the lynchings since 1935, when there were 30. Twenty years ago mob violence was taking a toll of 50 to 60 a year.

There never has been sufficient excuse for the federal encroachment upon state sovereignty contemplated by this politically-inspired scheme and now even the ghost of the excuse is gone. Education, public opinion and the vigilance of local and state officers have achieved results which make partisan political congressmen look foolish when they invoke the time-worn anti-lynching bill device to bid for the negro vote. Within a few years, no doubt, this type of mobbery will disappear except in rare instances of extreme public outrage which may occur in any state. And with it will go the incentive to resort to about the lowest type of politics ever played on Capitol Hill.

Water Valley, Miss. Herald
January 9, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years, gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be removed.

Seneca, S. C., Journal
January 8, 1941

NO LYNCHINGS IN S. C.—

No lynchings occurred in South Carolina during the past year, and we—along with other newspaper editors of the South—offer this as further proof that there is no need of an anti-lynch law.

Only five persons were lynched in 1940, with one being taken from jail and another shot to death in jail. States in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were negro. Offenses charged were wife beating, and drunkeness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man.

Catskill N Y Examiner Recorder
THURS JANUARY 16 1941 WEEKLY

Five Lynched In 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

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Bamberg, S. C., Herald
January 16, 1941

A GOOD RECORD.

South Carolina has had another year clean of lynchings. A few years ago a year rarely elapsed without two or three or more lynchings in the state. Lynchings have now become so rare, not only in South Carolina, but throughout the nation, as to no longer be a menace.

The south-haters in congress no longer have any serious ground for harping on lynching. Gangsterism offers a far more serious problem, but as there is little evidence of gang operations in the south, we are not expecting any hullabaloo about that in congress, or in the north for that matter.

The change of sentiment in regard to mob law is a remarkable fact. This change came about not as the result of ravings by south-haters, but from educational service rendered here at home by our own people. The masses of people no longer feel that they must take the law into their own hands to wreak vengeance upon evil doers. They have confidence in the courts and the officers to do their duty.

When there is a similar change of sentiment in the north, we can remove the sister evil of gangster murders.

CORBIN, KY. TRIBUNE
JAN. 16, 1941 F10

In the year 1939, there were only three lynchings in the United States.

TITSBURG, KS. HEADLIGHT
JAN. 1, 1941 J18

FOUR LYNCHINGS IN 1940.

The year 1940 did not make as good a showing in the matter of lynchings as the year 1939, according to the reports compiled at the Tuskegee Institute. These reports show that five persons met death at the hands of mobs in the United States in 1940. In 1939 only three persons were lynched. But in 1938 six died in that manner. One of the victims of mobs was taken from a jail and one of the others was shot to death in jail. Georgia and Alabama each had two cases. Tennessee had one.

While the number of persons lynched is of vital impertance in the lynching record, the number of lynchings that were prevented is of greater significance. The reports show that in 22 cases, officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of these cases were in northern states. All the others reported were in southern states. In 21 cases, persons sought by mobs were removed to safety or the guards were augmented, or other precautions were taken. In one case armed force was used against the mob. Twenty-eight persons—four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from mobs.

This is more evidence that where officers of the law are inclined to do their duty, they can prevent lynchings. They have done so in many cases this year. An officer of the law, a sheriff or chief of police or other officer in charge, has all the advantage over a mob. The trouble is that many of them have not the courage, if indeed they have the inclination, to use their advantage. In few cases where lynchings have occurred or mobs have been formed are officers in charge of prisoners surprised. Therefore, officers should be prepared for such emergencies. They can be prepared by hiding the prisoners, by taking the prisoners away in a hurry and secretly or by preparing a defense. Whether or not a mob carries on a lynching is almost entirely up to the officer in charge.

PALHART TEX TEXAN
JAN. 10, 1941 J18

LYNCHINGS IN 1940

Five persons were lynched in the United States in 1940, according to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. This is two more than the number three for the year 1939, one less than the number six for the year 1938, and three less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail; one was shot to death in jail. In twenty-two instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

None of the lynchings occurred in Texas.

The crime of lynching has been declining for the last fifty years. During the ten years from 1880 to 1898, inclusive, 1,604 lynchings occurred in the United States. During the last ten years, 1931 through 1940, there were 114 lynchings. That is the number of lynchings during the last decade is equivalent to only a little more than 7 per cent of the number of lynchings for the ten-year period ended with 1898.

Real progress is being made in the effort to eliminate completely this crime against law and against mankind. Within a period of fifty years the average annual number of lynchings has been cut down from approximately 160 to less than a dozen. And this progress has been made, and is continuing, without the existence of a Federal anti-lynching law. The States are handling the problem. ——The Texas Digest

LYNCHING-1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

6573

SPRING VALLEY N Y LEADER Wkly
THURS JANUARY 16 1941 WEEKLY

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Based on records kept by Tuskogee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Red Wing, Minn. Eagle
FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1941

Lynching On the Way Out?

Remark that the world grew better in 1940 and the average man will raise his eyebrows quizzically and murmur, "Oh, Yeh?" But it did, in at least one respect.

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FRANKSTON TEX CITIZEN
JAN. 10, 1941

Lynchings Not So Numerous In 1940

Five persons were lynched in the United States in 1940, according to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. This is two more than the number three for the year 1939, one less than the number six for the year 1938, and three less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail; one was shot to death in jail. In 22 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings.

None of the lynchings occurred in Texas.

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Milford, N H Cabinet
JAN 16 1941

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Ft. Mills, S. C., Times
January 9, 1941

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Mt Carmel Ill Republican Register
MONDAY JANUARY 20 1941

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According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assault on white women and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the later part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939, which was the lowest, for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892 when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211 in 1884. and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4.695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

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ALTAMONT N Y ENTERPRISE
FRI JANUARY 17 1941 WEEKLY

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

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PEARL RIVER N Y SEARCHLIGHT
FRI JANUARY 17 1941 WEEKLY

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HICKMAN KY COURIER
JAN. 17, 1941

CAN WE REMOVE ANOTHER BLOT?

...ed on records kept by Tuskegee ...titute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in ...e United States during 1940, one a ...hite man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white woman.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefsible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilzation may soon be entirely removed.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

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LYNCHINGS IN 1940

F. D. Patterson, President Tuskegee Institute Presents Figures on Lynchings in 1940

To the Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 4 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; an altercation with white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON
President
Tuskegee Institute
Alabama

Commerce, Ga., News
January 2, 1941

Wadesboro, N. C., Intelligencer
January 2, 1941

Ft. Valley, Ga., Leader-Tribune
January 2, 1941

Macon, Ga. Telegraph
January 3, 1941

Walhalla, S. C. Courier
January 2, 1941

Dothan, Ala. Eagle
December 31, 1940

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
December 31, 1940

Gadsden, Ala., Etowah Observer
January 2, 1941

Statesville, N. C. Daily
December 31, 1940

Morristown, Tenn., Gazette
January 10, 1941

River Junction, Fla., Tribune
January 3, 1941

Clanton, Ala., News
January 2, 1941

Gadsden, Ala., Times
December 31, 1940

Saluda, S. C., Standard
January 9, 1941

Greenville, N. C.—Reflector
December 31, 1940

Lanett, Ala. Times
January 1, 1941

Birmingham, Ala., Age-Herald
December 31, 1940

Elberton, Ga., Star
December 31, 1940

Eatonton, Ga., Messenger
January 9, 1941

Woodville, Miss. Republican
January 11, 1941

Abbeville, Ala., Herald
January 2, 1941

Winnsboro, S. C. News & Herald
January 2, 1941

Plaquimine, La. South
January 3, 1941

Fitzgerald, Ga., Herald
December 31, 1940

Jacksonville, Ala. Record
January 3, 1941

Covington, Tenn. Leader
January 2, 1941

New Bern, N. C. New Bernian
December 31, 1940

Aiken, S. C. Standard & Review
January 3, 1941

Nashville, Tenn. Banner
January 1, 1941

De Funiak Springs, Fla., Herald
January 16, 1941

Waynesville, N. C., Mountaineer
January 2, 1941

LaFayette, Ga., Messenger
January 2, 1941

Griffin, Ga. News
January 1, 1941

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
January 2, 1941

Montgomery, Ala. Journal
December 31, 1940

Arcadia, Fla., Arcadian
January 2, 1941

Lawrenceville, Ga., News-Herald
January 2, 1941

Morristown, Tenn. Sun
January 2, 1941

Toccoa, Ga. Record
January 2, 1941

Clayton, Ala., Record
January 3, 1941

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 5, 1941

Talladega, Ala., Daily Home
December 31, 1940

Farmville, Va. Herald
January 3, 1941

Quincy, Fla., Times
January 2, 1941

Fernandina, Fla. Leader
January 3, 1941

Huntsville, Ala. Times
December 31, 1940

Winona, Miss. Times
January 3, 1941

Florence, Ala., Herald
January 10, 1941

Ashland, Ala. Progress
January 2, 1941

Greenville, S. C. News
January 1, 1941

Ozark, Ala., Star
January 2, 1941

Jackson, Ala., Alabamian
January 1, 1941

LYNCHINGS IN 1940

Editor The Advertiser: DEC 31 1940

Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegee Institute on lynchings as follows:

There were five persons lynched in 1940. One was white and four were Negro.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2, and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
Tuskegee Institute. President.

Birmingham, Ala. News
December 31, 1940

Five Persons Lynched In U. S. During 1940, Tuskegee Reports

22 Attempts Are Balked By Officers Of Law Through Prompt Action

Five persons, a white man and four Negroes, were lynched in the United States during 1940 and 22 attempted lynchings were frustrated by officers of the law.

This was disclosed in an announcement by F. D. Patterson, Tuskegee Institute president, based on reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research.

The announcement said that there were three lynchings in 1939; six in 1938 and eight each in 1936 and 1937.

The 1940 victims were lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; attempted rape; attempting to qualify to vote and for engaging in altercations with a white man. Two of the lynchings were in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

Dr. Patterson's announcement said in part:

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern states and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs."

The announcement added that there were six cases concerning which information was uncertain or incomplete, reported in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Louisiana.

Carrollton, Ga., Times
January 2, 1941

NO LYNCHINGS IN CARROLL FOR 1940

Five persons were lynched in the United States, all in the South, but no one in Carroll County, during 1940, according to F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute. This is two more than the number 3 recorded for 1939, 1 less than the 6 in 1938, and 3 less than the number in both 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail and one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

Opelika, Ala. News
January 4, 1941

Five Lynchings In Past Year Recorded, Two In This State

Tuskegee, Ala., (AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported five lynchings occurred in the country during 1940, the victims being one white man and four negroes.

The report, issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, Institute president, said two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee.

"The offenses charged," Patterson wrote, "were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1."

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

According to the figures compiled at Tuskegee Institute, the number of lynchings in 1940 was two more than the three for 1939, one fewer than the six in 1938, and three fewer than the number for each of the years 1936 and 1937.

CRYSTAL CITY TEX. SENTINEL
JAN. 3, 1941

LYNCHINGS FOR YEAR 1940

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The following information is from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute of Alabama as compiled in the Department of Records and Research:

There were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were Negro.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

LA GRANGE, TEX. JOURNAL
JAN. 9, 1941

LYNCHINGS IN 1940

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Editor Journal:—

There were five persons lynched in 1940; one was white and four were negroes. The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qauify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each State are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

BEEVILLE, TEX. BEE-PICAYUNE
JAN. 2, 1941

5 Persons Lynched By Southern Mobs During Past Year

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One white man and four negroes were lynched during the past year, according to a report by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, Ala. Four of the lynchings took place in Georgia and Alabama and the fifth in Tennessee.

The lynched men were charged with wife beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, an altercation with a white man, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail and another was shot to death in jail.

Last year three persons were lynched, while six were lynched in 1938, and eight in 1937 and 1936.

There were 22 reports of instances in which law officers prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states and 19 in southern states. In 21 cases, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total of 28 persons—four white men, two negro women and 22 negro men—were thus saved from mobs.

Griffin Ga. News
Jan - 1. 1941

INSTITUTE REPORTS 5 LYNCHINGS IN 1940

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Jan. 1.—(AP)—Today Tuskegee Institute reported that five lynchings occurred in this country during 1940, victims being one white man and four negroes.

The report, issued by Dr. F. B. Patterson, president of the institute, said two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia, and one in Tennessee.

Roanoke, Va., World News
December 31, 1940

Voice of the People

The Lynching Record

Editor of The World-News:

Sir: Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegee Institute on lynchings as follows:

There were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were Negro.

The offenses charged were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each State are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON, President.
Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 30, 1940.

The Northwest Enterprise
Seattle, Washington

Tuskegee Reviews 1941 Lynch Record

JAN 3 1941

Tuskegee sends the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936.

One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

Christian Index
Jackson, Tennessee

JAN 9 1941

JUDGE LYNCH

ACCORDING to the Department of Records and Research compiled at Tuskegee Institute as sent out by President F. D. Patterson, there were five persons lynched in the United States in 1940. This was two more than the number three for 1939, one less than the number six for 1938, and three less than the number eight for each of the years of 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were twenty-two instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern states, and nineteen of the reported instances were in Southern states. In twenty-one instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case armed forces were used. A total number of twenty-eight persons—four white men, two Negro women, and twenty-two Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; and altercation with a white man one; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mister," one.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, two, and Tennessee, one.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, one; George, three, Tennessee one; and Louisiana, one.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

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Sparta, Tenn., Expositor
January 9, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man, the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tenennssee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that the lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on our American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

South Boston, Va. Gazette
January 9, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

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Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Charleston, S. C. Courier
January 7, 1941

Five Lynchings

(From the Los Angeles Times)

The annual report on lynchings by Tuskegee institute lists five such crimes during 1940; which is five too many, but is still a small number compared with the 255 reported in 1892. Since there were only three lynchings in 1939, and to find more than ten one must go back several years, it seems reasonable to suppose that the crime of lynching is a disappearing one.

If any other offense showed an equally infrequent occurrence, it would hardly be considered worth statistical consideration. Yet it seems likely that, for political reasons, the perennial misnamed federal anti-lynching bill will appear in congress, to be passed as usual by the house and properly killed in the senate.

No one has yet explained why the federal government should pick out one particular crime and leave all others under state jurisdiction; and particularly a crime which, through the development of healthy local public sentiment, is all but wiped out. Passage of the federal enactment would be a slap in the face to the people of the states that have made an excellent record and would, in fact, be more likely to encourage lynching than to suppress it.

A much better argument could be made for a federal law to control automobile accidents, which take nearly 40,000 lives a year—10,000 times as many as lynching.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 7, 1941

LYNCHINGS, NORTH AND SOUTH

Tuskegee Institute reports five lynchings during the year 1940, two of which are reputed to have occurred in Alabama. This is five lynchings more than should have occurred, but for the sake of keeping the record straight, we would now like to see a list of the gang murders (which is but another name for lynching), the causes for which these murders were committed and the states in which they occurred. If an accurate record of these killings were kept, and each time a professional South-baiter got upon his feet this record were flung in his teeth, there would be less of political demagogy and more effort to effect a real reform in connection with these affairs.

The only difference in a Northern and a Southern lynching is that in the North it is done in a more businesslike manner and is given a more picturesque name. In the South it is simply a lynching, while in the North the victims are "bumped off" or are "taken for a ride." In the North, for example, there has been a refinement of the old piratical practice of having the victim "walk the plank" and he now has his feet set in a block of concrete and in this condition is dumped into the sea. Yet this shouldn't be construed as in any sense a lynching and any Northern demagogue will tell you so. It is merely a gang murder and would be a lynching only if done in the South.

The obnoxious and unpardonable practice of lynching is fast being stamped out in the South, but it isn't being done by sectional agitators or demagogic politicians interested solely in furthering their own ends. It is being done by Southerners of both races who are continually working for better racial relations and understanding and by right thinking officials who have frowned upon this practice and are doing all in their power to put it down.—Clarke County Democrat (Grove Hill).

Montezuma, Ga. Georgian
January 2, 1941

Georgia Has Two Lynchings During Year

Out of the five Southern lynchings during 1940, reported by the Tuskegee Institute, two took place in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee. The offenses charked were wife-beating and drunkeness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." One was white and four were Negroes.

Sylacauga, Ala., News
January 10, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Savannah, Ga. News
January 6, 1941

Five Lynchings Too Many.

Philadelphia Inquirer: According to the Tuskegee Institute's annual compilation, there were five lynchings in 1940 — just five too many. This is an increase of two over the 1939 record, but when it is recalled that during the Eighties and Nineties the yearly number was frequently between 100 and 200 and twice exceeded the latter figure, the vast improvement is evident.

The progressive reduction in the number of lynchings in the United States did not begin until the turn of the century. Even as late as 1922 there were 57, but thereafter the number became steadily fewer.

Although few states have been free from this evil, it has most frequently occurred in the South. About a decade ago the authorities and citizens of several Southern states, where lynching was most rife, instituted systematic co-operative efforts for its prevention. The county inter-racial committees have done fine work in this connection. The latest statistics indicate that realization of the goal of these organizations, "a year without a lynching," should not be impossible.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
January 11, 1941

Editorial Comment

"THE FIVE LYNCHINGS"

From the Los Angeles Times.

The annual report on lynchings by Tuskegee Institute lists five such crimes during 1940; which is five too many, but is still a small number compared with the 255 reported in 1892. Since there were only three lynchings in 1939, and to find more than ten one must go back several years, it seems reasonable to suppose that the crime of lynching is a disappearing one.

If any other offense showed an equally infrequent occurrence, it would hardly be considered worth statistical consideration. Yet it seems likely that, for political reasons, the perennial misnamed federal anti-lynching bill will appear in congress, to be passed as usual by the house and properly killed in the senate.

No one has yet explained why the federal government should pick out one particular crime and leave all others under state jurisdiction; and particularly a crime which, through the development of healthy local public sentiment, is all but wiped out. Passage of the federal enactment would be a slap in the face to the people of the states that have made an excellent record and would, in fact, be more likely to encourage lynching than to suppress it.

A much better argument could be made for a federal law to control automobile accidents, which take nearly 40,000 lives a year—10,000 times as many as lynching.

Greenville, S. C. Piedmont
January 1, 1941

Five Lynchings

Five times in the year just closed mobs stooped to fighting lawlessness with lawlessness by lynching persons charged with crimes.

One of the victims was white, four were negroes; one was charged with attempted rape and the others with lesser offenses. One lynching took place in Tennessee, two in Georgia and two in Alabama, South Carolina again being free of such a blot.

The number five represented an increase over the previous year's three but is well below the average of recent years and far below the average up until a decade ago.

Citizens who earnestly feel that lynch law must give way to law and order will find encouragement, therefore, in the record.

Savannah, Ga., News
January 2, 1941

By Other Editors

Incomplete Lynching Records.

Rome News-Tribune: Reports from the Tuskegee Institute, where records upon some of the lynchings are kept, are interesting as showing the great decrease in lynchings that has come about in the South in recent years, but the figures actually throw little light upon the activities of mobs in the United States as a whole.

For a mob to take a white man or a negro in hand and kill him without due process of law constitutes a lynching when it occurs in the South, but when mobs are formed in the North and kill persons it does not constitute lynchings under prevailing interpretations.

In the last half dozen years far more men have been killed by mobs in Northern and Western communities as a result of industrial disputes than have been killed by mobs in the South, but only in the South is the stigma "lynching" applied.

Yet in spite of this disposition to ignore lynchings in other portions of the country while emphasizing the few that occur in the South, there is no real distinction between the mob lawlessness that costs the lives of human beings in the North and West and the mob lawlessness that costs the lives of some persons in the South. It is "lynch law" when people anywhere take the law into their own hands, despite anything that may be said to the contrary.

However, this perfectly obvious truth is also ignored in Washington among those agitating for the passage of the so-called anti-lynch bill. They become terribly "het up" over an occasional act of mob violence in the South, but pay no attention whatever to mob violence in the North and exempt such violence from their proposed bill.

Another odd characteristic of the sponsors of the misnamed anti-lynch bill is that they would freely lynch the Constitution of the United States in their efforts to impose unwarranted and illegal federal regulations upon the South.

These legislative agitators know that the federal government has no more right to take over the handling of local law violations within the states of the South than they have to take over the collection of local taxes and licenses, and they proceed despite this knowledge merely because to proceed fits into their scheme of trying to please negro politicians in their districts.

INDEPENDENCE, KS. REPORTER
JAN. 4, 1941

Lynchings in 1940

The Tuskogee Institute reports that five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, of whom one was white and four were Negroes.

This is two more mob murders than occurred during the previous year.

However, reports show that officers of the law prevented lynchings in 22 instances, 19 of them in Southern states. Twenty-eight persons were saved from mob violence.

While it is reason for regret that any lynchings should occur at all, the figures for recent years show that progress has been made in reducing their blot on the record of the people of this nation as law-abiding citizens.

The Plaindealer
Kansas City, Kan.
JAN 3 1941

Statistics Show 5 Persons Lynched In 1940

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This information was received from Tuskegee Institute, office of the president. This number is more than the number 3 for the year 1939, two less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and four less than the number 8 for the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail. One one was and 4 colired.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. JAN 3 1941 Seven of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched one was white and three were Negroes. The offenses charged were wife beating and drunkeness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with a white man 1, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr", 1. States in which lynchings accurred aand the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

There are six cases concerning which information at the present time is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the states of Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1, and Louisiana, 1.

Dawson, Ga., News
January 2, 1941

What Is Lynching?

From the Tifton Gazette

At a meeting of a group of organizations in Tuskegee, Ala., to arrive at "some mutual basis for determining what constitutes a lynching," it was agreed that a lynching would be "a dead man illegally killed at the hands of a group which killed under the pretext of service to justice, race, or tradition."

Under this heading, while no definition of a lynching was given, the death of a Georgian who was flogged last March, was declared to be a lynching. But the meeting pointed out that gang killings are not lynchings ,since they usually "are the result of retribution or vengeance by one gang against another."

Deaths from "violence in labor disputes" also were excluded from the "lynching" agreement. In other words, killings taking place under conditions obtaining in the south are lynchings in the eyes of the group that met at Tuskegee, while killings under conditions that predominate in the north are not lynchings—they are just plain murders, without trimmings.

Webster's New International Dictionary defines lynch as "to inflict punishment, especially death, upon, without the form of law." No other definition is given. The same source defines lynch law as, "Act or practice by private persons of inflicting punishment for crimes or offenses without due process of law." No other definition is given. These two seem to be definite enough to suit anyone, so the reason for the meeting in Tuskegee is obvious.

It is an effort to confine to the south whatever stigma there may be attached to lynching, since it has a more horrible sound than does plain premeditated murder. The Gazette does not defend lynching but condemns it. But it does believe that if illegel killing in the south is called lynching, the same name should be applied to illegal killings in any other section of the country.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC

6576

Vicksburg, Miss. Herald
January 5, 1941

Mob Law in 1940

Several anti-lynching bills are to be introduced in the next congress. While it is predicted that the administration forces will guard against permitting this controversial issue reaching the filibuster stage, one may well ask why should congress pay the slightest attention to proponents of such pernicious proposals at a time when the whole efforts of the government is bent to the one objective which the country must achieve in order to secure the maximum results in carrying out the country's gigantic defense program—national unity?

The lynching evil has virtually become a thing of the past. And this gratifying condition of law observance has been brought about through the weight of public opinion. The overwhelming sentiment of the public has always been against mob law of any kind. The public is opposed to mob murder in the south just as the public is opposed to mob murder in the north. Lynchings are being wiped out in the south just as gangster murders are being wiped out in the north.

There is no more reason for congress placing a mantle of shame on the south because of mob murder than there is for placing the mantle of shame on the north for mob murder. The people of both sections will and can eliminate both evils by voluntary effort of local law enforcement agencies without having the federal government step in to assume powers that belong strictly to local governments.

The following information concerning lynching for the year 1940, was received at the week end by The Evening Post from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute who has the most authentic information on lynchings. It is self-explanatory and no further evidence is needed to show how the lynching evil is being wiped out in the south. Incidentally the letter reveals that no crime of lynching marred the record of Mississippi during the past year, which attests the efficiency of state and local law enforcement officials. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro man—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 4 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as 'Mr.'

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

"There are 6 cases concerning which information at the present time is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; Louisiana, 1."

Gadsden, Ala., Times
January 1, 1941

Incomplete Lynching Records

REPORTS from the Tuskegee Institute, where records upon some types of lynchings are kept, show that there were five such outbursts of lawlessness in the South during 1940, with two in Georgia and Alabama and one in Tennessee. One victim was a white man; four were negroes.

The report is interesting as showing the great decrease in lynchings that have come about in the South in recent years but the figures actually throw little light upon the activities of mobs in the United States as a whole.

For a mob to take a white man or a negro in hand and kill him without due process of law constitutes a lynching when it occurs in the South, but when mobs are formed in the North and kill persons the acts do not constitute lynchings under prevailing interpretations.

In the last half-dozen years far more men have been killed by mobs in Northern and Western communities as a result of industrial disputes than have been killed by mobs in the South, but only in the South is the stigma "lynching" applied.

Yet in spite of this disposition to ignore lynchings in other portions of the country while emphasizing the few that occur in the South, there is no real distinction between the mob lawlessness that costs the lives of human being in the North and West and the mob lawlessness that cost the lives of some persons in the South. It is a lynch law when people anywhere take the law into their own hands, despite anything that may be said to the contrary.

However, this perfectly obvious truth is also ignored in Washington among those agitating for the passage of the so-called anti-lynch bill. They become terribly "het up" over an occasion act of mob violence in the South but pay no attention whatever to mob violence in the North and exempt such violence from their proposed bill.

Another odd characteristic of the sponsors of the misnamed anti-lynch bill is that they would freely lynch the constitution of the United States in their efforts to impose unwarranted and illegel federal regulations upon the South.

These legislative agitators know that the federal government has no more right to take over the handling of local law violations within the states of the South than it has to take over the collection of local taxes and licenses, and they proceed despite this knowledge merely because to proceed fits into their scheme of trying to please negro politicians in their districts.

Birmingham, Ala. News,
January 14, 1941

A DIRTY SHAME

Not so encouraging are figures on lynchings in 1940 which were released last week by Dr. F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute. Five lynchings occurred during the year, two of them in Alabama. In spite of the efforts of civilized persons in the South to rid the section of this crime, all of the lynchings took place in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

For several years the number of lynchings steadily decreased. However, there were two more lynchings last year than in 1939. The only heartening note in the report by Dr. Patterson was the statement that officers of the law saved 28 persons from the hands of mobs.

This newspaper has been interested to learn what punishment, if any, was given the mobs which strung up five persons in 1940. All the information on lynchings gives the names of the victims and other facts, but nowhere have we been able to find out whether the lynchers were dealt with in the proper courts.

The offenses, if all the acts for which persons were lynched can be called that, included:

Wife-beating and drunkenness, one; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; attempted rape, one; altercation with a white man, one.

This list of reasons for lynching indicates clearly that we in Alabama and our neighbor states have a long way to go in educating the people before this heinous crime is no more.—Lee County Bulletin (Auburn).

Kinston, N. C., Free Press
December 31, 1940

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN U. S. IN 1940

One of Victims White—A Series of Foolish Reasons

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Ala., today sent The Free Press information concerning lynchings in 1940. Statistics have been compiled at the institute for many years.

There were five persons lynched in 1940, according to the Tuskegee department of records and research. One of the victims was white, the others Negroes.

One of the five was charged with wife-beating and drunkenness, one with attempted rape, one with attempting to qualify to vote, one (Negro) with an altercation with a white man, one with failure to refer to a white man as "mister."

One of the victims was shot to death in jail, the institute said.

There were two lynchings in Alabama, two in Georgia, one in Tennessee.

In 1939 there were three lynchings, in 1938 six.

Spartanburg S. C. Journal
January 4, 1941

Now Let's Repeat

South Carolina's slate was kept clean of a lynching throughout the year 1940. That is as it should be. Respect for law and constituted authority as well as its enforcement should militate against any recurrence of mob violence in this state. There can be no justification for a group or mob taking the law unto themselves and committing murder and assault upon the courts at the same time.

Greensboro, N. C. Record
January 2, 1941

Mob Murders of a Year

REPORTS compiled by the department of records and research of the Tuskegee Institute, at Tuskegee, Ala., show that five persons—one white man and four negro men—were lynched during 1940 in the United States.

This is two more than the number lynched in 1939; one less than the 1938 record, and three less than for each of the years 1937 and 1936. Two of these mob crimes occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia, and one in Tennessee. The offenses charged were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." There were 22 instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings—three such instances having occurred in the northern states and 19 in southern states. In 21 instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken, while in one instance armed force was employed to foil a mob. The report says 28 persons—four white men, 22 negro men and two negro women—were saved from mob murder during the year.

Bad and disgraceful as is the 1940 lynching record it is not entirely lacking in encouraging aspects. It indicates that the nation as a whole is getting away from mob lawlessness, and it gives evidence of a sincere determination, in the south as elsewhere in the country, to protect prisoners from unlawful violence.

It is the duty of the authorities to use every means within their power to prevent lynchings. When and if mob crimes do occur, it is then the duty of the authorities to hunt down and punish mobmen. Consistent and conscientious discharge of these duties would reduce to a minimum if not entirely end mob murders. Strict devotion to duty on the part of the law enforcement officers and the courts will do far more toward preventing lynchings than enactment of an unconstitutional federal anti-lynching law, such as the one advocated by some persons.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
January 6, 1941

Repudiates Tuskegee

Tuskegee Institute, which has the respect and confidence of the white people of the South, reports five lynchings in the year 1940 in the United States. A few months ago Walter White, colored, of New York, of the Society for the Advancement of the Colored People, was writing that unreported lynchings had occurred in the South in the year. This man White apparently repudiates Tuskegee.

Memphis Tenn. Com'rcial Appeal
January 5, 1941

The Lynching Record

The 1940 record of lynchings has been revealed by those who keep check on that type of outrage and a total of five for the entire Nation is shown for the year, or two more than were recorded in 1939. Needless to say that was five too many. All occurred in Southern states, but none in Mississippi and none in Arkansas. Tennessee, be it said to its shame, recorded one.

Despite the gain of two, the 1940 record is by no means discouraging. There was a total of six lynchings in 1938 and eight each in 1937 and 1936. Some ground was lost last year but not a great deal. The goal of a zero year remains in sight.

The most encouraging aspect of the lynching record, as we see it, lies in the fact that last year there were 22 specific instances in which law enforcement officers prevented lynching through their courage, ingenuity and determination. Three of those instances occurred in Northern states—the rest in the South. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken to thwart lynchings. In one instance, armed force was used. A total of 28 persons—four whites, two negro women and 22 negro men, were thus kept out of the hands of mobs.

This phase of the 1940 record is convincing proof of a more awakened conscience, of greater public desire for orderly processes of law enforcement and justice and, above all else, of the ability of states to do their policing without Federal interference. The decline in lynchings has been progressive over a number of years. Involved is a problem which communities and law enforcement agencies are meeting with greater courage and intelligence with each passing year. We predict the complete elimination of lynching from the American scene. When that happy day arrives, it will come of what the individual states themselves have accomplished and not of compulsion from outside sources.

Greenwood, S. C. Index-Journal
January 2, 1941

FIVE LYNCHINGS

From Greenville Piedmont.

Five times in the year just closed mobs stooped to fighting lawlessness with lawlessness by lynching persons charged with crimes.

One of the victims was white, four were negroes; one was charged with attempted rape and the other with lesser offenses. One lynching took place in Tennessee, two in Georgia and two in Alabama, South Carolina again being free of such a blot.

The number five represented an increase over the previous year's three but is well below the average of recent years and far below the average up until a decade ago.

Citizens who earnestly feel that lynch law must give way to law and order will find encouragement, therefore, in the record.

Lumberton, N. C. Robesonian
January 2, 1941

LYNCHING RECORD

The number of lynchings fluctuates from year to year to such an extent that one can hardly argue that the problem has been solved when the record of any year shows a decided decrease.

The three lynchings reported for 1939, lowest in many years, gave decided encouragement. But the number was stepped up to five during 1940. At any rate, the number of lynchings in recent years has been consistently low as compared with former years.

Lynchings during the past year were apparently for offenses only one of which carries capital punishment wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

North Carolina had a clean record in this respect in 1940, as it has had for a number of years.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Nineteen of these reported instances were in southern states. In nearly every instance, where officers of the law have opportunity to do so, they can and do prevent a lynching.

Columbus, Ga. Enquirer-Sun
December 31, 1940

LYNCHING REPORT FOR PAST YEAR

There were five lynchings in the United States in 1940, according to a statement just issued at Tuskegee Institute, showing an increase of two over the total for 1939.

The 1939 mob violence toll of three was the lowest in many years, as we understand it, and the total for this year was one less than that of 1938 when six persons were lynched.

Of keen interest is the fact that in 22 instances this year lynchings were prevented by officers of the law, according to the statement just issued by Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of the Tuskegee Institute. Nineteen of the reported instances were in the South and three in the North. The statement says that in 21 instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken and in one case force was used.

It is deeply deplored there was a single lynching in 1940, but there is reason to believe that conditions are improving. Even though there was an increase over the total of 1939, the fact that nineteen lynchings were prevented in the South shows that the officers of this region are making progress in bringing this sort of lawlessness under control.

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 6, 1941

LYNCHING IN THE UNITED STATES

According to a report from Tuskegee Institute, there were five lynchings in the United States. One of these, unfortunately, took place in Alabama to put a blot on a perfect record. In 1939 only three persons were lynched; 28 people were saved from mobs by guards or by removal to other jails.

The offenses for which the five men were guilty were wife-beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man and failure to call a white man "Mr." Of the five men lynched, one was white and four were Negroes.

It is a shame that lynching cannot be prevented. Some of the offenses committed by the victims were small and insignificant. Justice could have been meted by the courts. To have to die by force because of a wish to vote, in a country where suffrage is supposed to be universal, is a disgrace, and to kill a man for failing to say "Mr." is inexcusable. All of these people could have been meted punishment to fit their crimes without this wonted violence. Our state, nation and county bear the expenses of courts, yet groups of people still take law into their own hands.

Alabama should work hard to reach the goal of no lynching for 1941—and thus help in giving the nation as a whole a clean record.—Hale County News (Moundville).

LYNCHINGS- 1940 JAN-DEC. 6577
REPORTS ON S ENT PRESS

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 1, 1941

The Lynching Record

The South in general, and Alabama in particular, suffered a deterioration in the lynching record in 1940. Five lynchings were recorded by Tuskegee Institute, of which two were in Alabama. In 1939 there were only three lynchings in the country, and none in Alabama. For three years, until 1940, Alabama had not been disgraced by a lynching characterized as such on the records of Tuskegee Institute.

The Tuskegee Institute's method of reporting, it may be noted here, has been under fire, especially by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and other forces seeking the adoption of national legislation against lynching. These critics declare the institute's reports do not count incidents which should be classed as lynchings.

That criticism may be the reason for the inclusion in the report for 1940 of a note that information was uncertain regarding eight purported lynchings. The institute will be free of some portion of blame should any of these eight undefined cases be established later as lynchings. The uncertainty regarding these eight instances, however, lends at least some emphasis to the idea that the system of reporting lynchings lacks perfect accuracy.

However, the lynching record in 1940, even including the doubtful incidents, gives little support to the argument for federal anti-lynching legislation. State and local authorities still seem to have the matter pretty well in hand. These authorities thwarted 22 attempts at lynching during 1940. Nineteen of these foiled mob attempts were in the South, which is certainly evidence that this section is making earnest efforts to solve one of its major problems.

Lakeland, Fla., Ledger & Star Tele
December 31, 1940

ANOTHER LYNCHING REPORT

The south is getting away from lynchings—is not entirely away yet.

Five persons, one of them white, have been lynched during 1940. Three were lynched in 1939, six in 1938 and eight in 1937.

One of the persons lynched this year was taken from jail. One was shot to death in jail.

The lynchings were perpetrated in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. Florida has a clean slate for the year.

Charges against the victims included wife-beating and drunkeness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," and altercation with a white man, according to statements in a survey issued by F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee institute, in Alabama.

But there is a bright spot in the report. It points out that in 22 instances officers of the law prevented lynchings by removing prisoners to safety or by augmenting the guard at the jail.

Despite the occasional outbreak of lawlessness that results in lynchings, the south is making progress away from this hideous form of barbarism. Persistent and cooperative efforts on the part of intelligent, cool-headed whites and negroes with social vision are steadily getting results. Time and education will continue to reduce the problem.

"The trustees for certificate holders of the Bank of Mulberry are now paying a liquidating dividend of five per cent of the balance due on certificates. This makes a total of 50.6 per cent paid on the original amount of certificates."—Mulberry Press.

Winston Salem N C Journal
January 4, 1941

Our Lynching Record

Five persons were lynched in the United States in 1940, according to a report issued by President F. D. Patterson, of Tuskegee Institute.

These lynchings occurred in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. The victims included one white man and four Negroes. Two persons were lynched in Georgia, two in Alabama and one in Tennessee.

The total listed by President Patterson may be subjected to dispute by those who contend that unless a killing is carried out by a mob it does not constitute in the real sense a lynching.

If two, four or a half-dozen persons, contrary to public sentiment and community will, snatch up some person, carry him in a car to a secluded spot and murder him, this is violence of the most reprehensible sort but it is not pure mobbism and the murder is not, in the strict sense, a lynching, as many Southerners view it. However, at a recent conference of Southern leaders called by President Patterson and held at Tuskegee the conclusion was reached that the death of a man or woman at the hands of a group "which killed under the pretext of service to justice, race or tradition" would meet the definition of a lynching.

This conclusion is derived from the circumstance that such a killing is not motivated by pure criminal motive or instinct but by a horribly mistaken assumption that the individual has, or a group of individuals have, the right to act without the law for the purpose of serving justice, race prejudice or tradition. Thus it does come closer to being a true definition of lynching than the idea that such a crime must be performed by or with the connivance and consent of a large number.

The difference between a killing motivated by the personal urge or bent toward lust, gain or revenge, and the murder that is based on social antipathies is clear-cut and distinct. One deals with the individual's feelings and desires as an individual, the other with group, race or clan consciousness. In a lynching a very few men may be designated to act as the representatives of a group or may delegate to themselves the right and power to act for the whole group. Thus the motive of the killing rather than the number of people who directly or indirectly participate in it may be accepted as the true criterion for determining whether or not the homicide constituted a lynching.

Be that as it may, it is gratifying not only to learn that the lynching figures remain low for the South and the Nation, but that North Carolina has passed through another lynchless year. Several years have passed since mobbism last triumphed over the forces of decency, law and order in this State. And it is to hope that this clean record will be maintained through all the years to come. If the public retains its calm clear-headedess and officers of the law fearlessly, conscientiously and wisely perform their duties the record will be maintained.

Moultrie, Ga., Observer
December 31, 1940

FIVE LYNCHINGS DURING YEAR

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 31—(AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today five lynchings occurred in the country during 1940, the victims being one white man and four negroes.

The report issued by Dr. F. B. Patterson, institute president, said two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee.

"The offenses charged," Patterson wrote, "were: wife-beating and drunkeness 1, attempted rape 1, attempting to qualify to vote 1, altercation with a white man 1, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." 1."

The same number and distribution of lynchings were reported in New York by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association said the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are under investigation.

Greensboro, N. C., News
January 1, 1941

BOASTING RESERVED.

Annual report from Tuskegee institute records that five persons were lynched in the United States in 1940. Of these victims one was white and four were negroes. Of significance is the revealment that the charge of rape figured in only one act of mobbery. The others were the outgrowth of wife-beating and drunkenness, attempt to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." The relative inoffensiveness of most of these geneses of lynching carries its own stark and indictive commentary.

Patently there is no joy or satisfaction to be found, save in the minds of sadists, for the substantial increase over the 1939 figures when the same Tuskegee informants fixed the number at three.

There is some compensation, however, in the chronicle of lynchings prevented. The Tuskegee investigators found that 22 such inst[illegible] occurred in the twelvemonth, [illegible]ree in northern states and 19 in southern. In 21 cases officers simply used common sense by removing persons, augmenting guards or taking "other precautions". In the remaining mob frustration the authorities used force when the necessity arose. This part of the report speaks for itself in demonstration of a progress which may be attributed to education and to development and manifestation of official will.

On the five lynchings which did occur, however, there is nothing in the report to indicate that anything was ever done about them or anybody brought to taw for violation of practically every provision of the statute and every guarantee of the organic law. Any inclination to boast may well be reserved for the time when mobsters are apprehended and made to pay for their violence under the law which they lynched along with their human victim.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
January 2, 1941

Lynchings In 1940

A perfect record in respect to lynchings was made in the United States during the first half of 1940. Unfortunately, the record for the full year, as reported by the Tuskegee Institute, was far from perfect.

The report shows a total of five lynchings in which one victim was white and the other four were Negroes. The five occurred in three Southern States with two each in Alabama and Georgia and one in Tennessee. The offenses charged are interesting. Only one was charged with the traditional cause of lynchings, rape, and that charge was attempted rather than actual rape. The other four charges were wife-beating and drunkenness (presumably the white man); attempting to qualify to vote; altercation with a white man and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr."

Regardless of the gravity of the offense committed there is no excuse whatever for mob rule. There has never been even a semblance of such an excuse except when society was not sufficiently organized to deal with crimes against itself in an orderly manner. Such a condition does not exist in any American State.

The trivial reasons, which in reality are only pretects, assigned for some of the 1940 lynchings illustrate one of the many dangers inherent in mob rule. Such lynchings constitute crimes against civilization which should humiliate every responsible citizen of the States in which they took place.

Southern States have made great strides in recent years in dealing with the problem of lynching. The five lynchings of 1940, two more than in the previous year, represent a step backward. There should be no more such steps. North Carolina has not been represented in the States having lynchings for a number of years. The record of North Carolina can be and should be matched by every Southern State. But lynchings did not cease in this State until public opinion became aroused against them and until that public opinion was translated into a spirit of vigilance on the part of officials.

Public opinion should be aroused in every State shamed by a lynching in 1940. The perfect record of the first six months of 1940 can be and should be duplicated for all of the year 1941.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
January 18, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

Asheville, N. C., Times
January 1, 1941

The Lynching Record

REVIEWING the 1940 lynching record, as of December 28, Tuskegee Institute through President F. D. Patterson reports five persons lynched, 1 white and 4 Negro; 2 in Alabama, 2 in Georgia, 1 in Tennessee.

One lynching is one too many in a nation founded upon law, professedly Christian and striving to make democracy a living faith for civil and religious liberty in the life of every individual.

If, however, there must be regret and shame for five persons unlawfully done to death by mobs, there is encouragement for the final supremacy of majority public opinion and the law when one looks back through the decades at the lynching record.

Once many scores were annually killed by the followers of Judge Lynch. This year, as for many years past, the number is not only small, but the instances in which officers of the law did their duty and prevented other lynchings were impressive. Twenty-two times this year law officers arrived promptly on the scene and maintained the sovereignty of legal and orderly process against the undisciplined passions of mobsmen.

Those Americans who have all these years contended that lynching is a local problem, a local crime crying to Heaven for the assertion of local public sentiment and the determined action of local police power, have reason for some thankfulness even as they deplore the sad truth that lynching is still a summons to action.

Brunswick, Ga., News
December 31, 1940

FIVE LYNCHINGS IN U. S. DURING 1940

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31. (AP)—Tuskegee Institute reported today five lynchings occurred in the country during 1940, the victims being one white man and four negroes.

The report, issued by Dr. F. B. Patterson, institute president, said two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee.

"The offenses charged," Patterson wrote, "were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1, and failure to refer to a white man as 'Mr.', 1."

The same number and distribution of lynchings were reported in New York by the Association for the Advancement of Colored people. The association said the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are under investigation.

LYNCHING - 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

6578

CAMDEN N J COURIER
JAN 3 1941

L. LAMSON.

* * *

Lynching in 1940

To the Editor:

I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were four persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negro. The offenses charged were: Wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one, and an altercation with white man, one.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, one, and Tennessee, one.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, one; Georgia, three; Tennessee, one, and Louisiana, one.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute.

Richmond Va. Times-Dispatch
December 31, 1940

Lynchings in 1940

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were four persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938 and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern States and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern States. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1, and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1, and Tennessee, 1.

There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following States: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1, and Louisiana, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President, Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

NEW YORK TIMES
Circ. D. 474,277 S. 788,997
DEC 31 1940

1940 LYNCHINGS PUT AT 4

Head of Tuskegee Institute Offers Review of Record

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TUSKEGEE, Ala., Dec. 30—F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, issued today a statement on lynchings in 1940, stating that it was based on reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research.

"There were four persons lynched in 1940," the statement said. "This is one more than the number for the year 1939, two less than the number for the year 1938 and four less than the number for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from jail; one was shot to death in jail.

"There were twenty-two reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern States and nineteen of the reported instances were in Southern States. In twenty-one instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case armed force was used. A total number of twenty-eight persons—four white men, two Negro women and twenty-two Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negro. The offenses charged were wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1, and an altercation with white man, 1.

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; Tennessee, 1.

"There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following States: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1, and Louisiana, 1."

QUANAH TEX TRIBUNE CHIEF
JAN. 3, 1941 J10

LYNCHING DECREASING

According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number 3 for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynching. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or precaution taken. In one case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—four white men, two Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negroes. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; and an altercation with a white man, one.

States in which lynching occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

LOWELL MASS COURIER CITIZEN
JAN 6 1941

LYNCHINGS IN 1940.

Usually at the end of the year, the Tuskegee Institute issues a report on the lynching record of the past 12 months. This year the report is not so definite as it has been hitherto, there being six cases in which the information is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. The positive record is four lynchings, an increase of one over last year, but a number below that of any year previous to 1939. If later information should indicate that the doubtful cases were actually lynchings, 1940 would have witnessed one of the periodical setbacks which have occurred during the decline which has from decade to decade been consistent. For instance, there was a jump from eight in 1932 to 23 in 1933.

At worst, this is the first five year period during which the number of lynchings has never exceeded 10 in any one year, and the first in which it has not exceeded 20 in at least one year. Only once before 1902 had it dropped below 100, and 1924 was the first year that it fell below 30.

This year only one lynching was for rape or attempted rape. Neither the other two Negroes nor the one white man was accused of a capital crime or even a felony.

The statistics do not show any pressing need of federal anti-lynching laws, since 22 of these mob offenses were prevented by the vigilance of the state or local authorities. It is quite probable that the public sentiment of the southern states supports such law enforcing action fully as heartily as it would if the federal government stepped in.

LOWELL [illegible]

Ft. Mills, S. C., Times
January 2, 1941
Cullman, Ala. Democrat
January 2, 1941
Winston Salem, N. C. Journal
December 31, 1940
Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
December 31, 1940
Thomaston, Ga., Times
January 9, 1941
Barnwell, S. C., People
January 2, 1941
Sylacauga, Ala. Advance
January 2, 1941
St. Matthews, S. C., Times
January 2, 1941
Louisville, Miss. Journal
January 3, 1941
Paris, Tenn., Post Intelligencer
December 31, 1940
Titusville, Fla., Star Advocate
December 31, 1940
Marion, Ala., Standard
December 19, 1940
Newberry, S. C. Observer
December 31, 1940
Tifton, Ga., Gazette
December 28, 1940
Leland, Miss. Enterprise
December 27, 1940
Bastrop, La. Enterprise
January 2, 1941
Eutaw, Ala., Democrat
January 1, 1941
Knoxville, Tenn. News Sentinel
December 29, 1940
Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
December 29, 1940
Rockingham, N. C. Post-Dispatch
January 1, 1941
Minden, La. Tribune
December 31, 1940
Florence, S. C. Morning News
December 31, 1940
Madison, Ga., Madisonian
January 3, 1941
Tifton, Ga., Gazette
December 28, 1940

Birmingham, Ala. News
January 10, 1941

Four Lynchings

The annual report on lynchings by Tuskegee Institute lists four such crimes during 1940; which is four too many, but is still a small number compared with the 255 reported in 1892. Since there were only three lynchings in 1939, and to find more than 10 one must go back several years, it seems reasonable to suppose that the crime of lynching is a disappearing one.

If any other offense showed an equally infrequent occurrence, it would hardly be considered worth statistical consideration. Yet it seems likely that, for political reasons, the perennial mispamed federal anti-lynching bill will appear in Congress, to be passed as usual by the House and properly killed in the Senate.

No one has yet explained why the federal government should pick out one particular crime and leave all others under state jurisdiction; and particularly a crime which, through the development of healthy local public sentiment, is all but wiped out. Passage of the federal enactment would be a slap in the face to the people of the states that have made an excellent record and would, in fact, be more likely to encourage lynching than to suppress it.

A much better argument could be made for a federal law to control automobile accidents, which take nearly 40,000 lives a year—10,000 times as many as lynching.—Los Angeles Times.

Crossville, Tenn. Chronicle
January 9, 1941

FOUR PERSONS LYNCHED DURING YEAR 1940

Following is the information concerning lynchings for the year 1940, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research of Tuskegee Institute: There were five persons lynched in 1940. This is one more than the number three for the year 1939, two less than the number six for the year 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempted to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Oneida, Tenn. News
January 3, 1941

LYNCHING RECORDS FOR YEAR JUST PAST

Lynching Record For 1940 by Tuskegee Institute

Reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, show that there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lyunched, 1 was white and 3 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkeness, 1; attempt rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1.

Cartersville, Ga. News-Tribune
January 2, 1941

Five Lunchings Reported in 1940

Tuskegee, Ala., Dec. 31—Tuskegee Institute reported today that five lynchings occurred in the country during 1940, the victims being one white man and four negroes.

The report, issued by Dr. F. B. Patterson, institute president, said two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee.

"The offenses charged," Patterson wrote, "were: wife beating and drunkenness 1, attempted rape 1, attempting to qualify to vote 1, altercation with a white man 1, and failure to refer to a white man as 'Mr.' 1."

The same number and distribution of lynchings were reported in New York by the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The association said the deaths of ten others suspected of being lynched are under investigation.

FREDERICK, OK. PRESS
JAN. 24, 1941 F12

OBSERVER

By R. H. Wessel

Five lynchings blackened the United States in 1940—two in Alabama, two in Georgia and one in Tennessee. This is five too many.

ATOKA, OK. CITIZEN-DEMOCRAT
JAN. 23, 1941 F18

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five peresons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assault on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN-DEC.

6579

SIOUX CITY IOWA TRIBUNE
THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1941

Curing Itself

Insistence of the southern states that the agitation for a national law against lynching is unnecessary, seems to be supported by reports from Tuskegee Institute for the past year. For the fifth year in succession, the national toll of lynch law is kept below 10, there having been just five victims of mob violence in 1940. The southern states furnished the five instances, two each from Alabama and Georgia, and one from Tennessee.

Sentiment against lynching has grown stronger from year to year in the sections where it was once common. Think back to 1892, with its 201 lynchings, and compare it with the nine of 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938 and five each in 1939 and last year. Lynch law, once so common, and apparently partially justified by lack of law enforcement, is definitely going out of fashion. Southern officers have backing they once lacked in protecting prisoners and dealing with those who aspire to take the law in their own hands.

Last year one white man and four colored men were the victims of mob violence, and the causes given in the Tuskegee report are interesting: Wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; altercation with a white man, one; failure to refer to a white man as "Mister," one. That listing is sufficient comment on the practice and its justification in the minds of those who still tolerate it. We still need a bit of education and change of sentiment along that line.

Anderson, S. C., Independent Trib.
January 12, 1941

FIVE LYNCHINGS

Five persons were the victims of lynching during the year 1940, according to the records of the Tuskegee Institute—one white and four Negroes. By states the ugly records reads: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; Tennessee, 1. In only one instance was a person lynched on charges of attempting to criminally assault a white woman. The other offenses alleged were trivial.

Education and constant, unremitting warfare against lynch law waged by the press and civic leaders of both races will eventually result in this foul blot being removed from the states.—Spartanburg Journal.

Batesburg, S. C. News
January 17, 1941

NOW LET'S REPEAT

South Carolina's slate was kept clean of a lynching throughout the year 1940. That is as it should be. Respect for law and constituted authority as well as its enforcement should militate against any recurrence of mob violence in this state. There can be no justification for a group or mob taking the law into themselves and committing murder and assault upon the courts at the same time. — Spartanburg Journal.

Grove Hill, Ala., Democrat
January 2, 1941

Lynchings, North and South

Tuskegee Institute reports five lynchings during the year 1940, two of which are reputed to have occurred in Alabama. This is five lynchings more than should have occurred but for the sake of keeping the record straight, we would now like to see a list of the gang murders (which is but another name for lynching), the causes for which these murders were committed and the states in which they occurred. If an accurate record of these killings were kept and each time a professional South baiter got upon his feet this record were flung in his teeth there would be less of political demagogy and more effort to effect a real reform in connection with these affairs.

The only difference in a Northern and a Southern lynching is that in the North it is done in a more businesslike manner and is given a more picturesque name. In the South it is simply a lynching, while in the North the victims are "bumped off" or are "taken for a ride." In the North, for example, there has been a refinement of the old piratical practice of having the victim "walk the plank" and he now has his feet set in a block of concrete and in this condition is dumped into the sea. Yet this shouldn't be construed as in any sense a lynching and any Northern demagogue will tell you so. It is merely a gang murder and would be a lynching only if done in the South.

The obnoxious and unpardonable practice of lynching is fast being stamped out in the South but it isn't being done by sectional agitators or demagogic politicians interested solely in furthering their own ends. It is being done by Southerners of both races who are continually working for better racial relations and understanding and by right thinking officials who have frowned upon this pracitce and are doing all in their power to put it down.

Roanoke, Ala., Leader
January 1, 1941

Tuskegee Institute's annual report on lynchings in the United States reveals that five persons were lynched. This is two more than were lynched in 1939, but represents a decrease from the number lynched in 1938 and 1937. One of the lynching victims was white and four were colored. Two of the cases occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia, and one in Tennessee. That puts us right in the middle of the "lynching belt" of the nation.

Hoquiam, Wash., Washingonian
JANUARY 12, 1941

LYNCHINGS

THE Tuskogee Institute, Negro college founded by Booker T. Washington, reports that there have been only 11 lynching in the United States during the past three years.

Between 1882 and 1901 there was only one year with less than 100 lynchings.

Between 1901 and 1926 there were an average of 50 lynchings a year. Since 1926 the numbed of lynchings has been falling off rapidly until now lynchings practically have reached the vanishing point.

From these facts one must conclude that congress wasted a good deal of time last year when it devoted months to debate of an anti-lynching bill. The lynching problem obviously is being solved without the need of legislation.

Centre, Ala., Coosa River News
January 10, 1941

Tuskegee (Negro) Institute finds that there were 5 persons Lynched in 1940—1 white and 4 Negroes. Gradually this form of crime is diminshing; like the popular slaughter of "mad" dogs; but reforms travel slowly.

SPOKANE, WASH. CHRONICLE
JANUARY 9, 1941

A DISGRACE TO THE WHITE RACE

Lynchings in 1940 totaled five, not as imposing a number as filled the records a few years back, but the causes for the killings involve nothing short of disgrace.

One man was accused of wife beating and drunkenness, one of attempted assault, one of attempting to qualify to vote, one of an altercation with a white man, and one of failure to refer to a white man as "Mr."

The first two offenses are frequently met with and could conceivably arouse community feeling to a point hard to control. The third and fourth irregularities could not under any circumstances justify violence and the last is one which only the most outrageous ignorance could call a cause for such revenge.

One of the five was a white man, but the news summary did not say which offense was his. It could not have been any of the last three. It is hard to see how any racial problem or prejudice could invoke the penalty of lynching, always a cowardly, brutish act, for any of these three shortcomings. The white race surely does not establish any superiority by terrorism of this sort.

VICKSBURG, MISS HERALD
JAN. 9, 1941

40 FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

40 Lynching

According to a report from Tuskegee Institute, there were five lynchings in the United States. One of these, unfortunately, took place in Alabama to put a blot on a perfect record. In 1939 only 3 person were lynched. 28 people were saved from mobs by guards or by removal to other jails.

The offenses for which the 5 men were guilty were: wife-beating and drunkeness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man and failure to call a white man "Mr". Of the five men lynched one was white and four were Negro.

It is a shame that lynching cannot be prevented. Some of the offenses committed by the victims were small and insignificant. Justice could have been meted by the courts. To have to die by force because of a wish to vote, in a country where suffrage is supposed to be universal, is a disgrace, and to kill a man for failing to say "Mr." is inexcusable. All of these people could have been meted punishment to fit their crimes without this wonted violence. Our state, nation and county bear the expenses of courts yet groups of people still take law into their own hands.

Alabama should work hard to reach the goal of NO lynching for 1941—and thus help in giving the nation as a whole a clean record.

Lafayette, Ala., Sun
January 15, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938 and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

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The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.—Sylacauga News.

New York Age
New York, N. Y.

4 Lynchings In 1940 Reported By Tuskegee Research Department

JAN 4 1941

TUSKEGEE, Ala.—According to reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, there were 4 persons lynched in 1940, Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute announced Saturday.

The Tuskegee statement continued:

JAN 4 1941

"This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

"Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkeness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with a white man, 1.

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

Telegraph
Macon, Georgia

Lynchings

Editor The Telegraph:

Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegee Institute on lynchings as follows: There were five persons lynched in 1940. One was white and four were Negroes.

JAN 3 - 1941

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

F. D. PATTERSON,
President Tuskegee Institute.
Tuskegee, Ala.

6580

News
Birmingham, Ala.

JAN 7 1941

Lynching Toll Still Down

For the fifth successive year 1940 showed a lynching toll below 10. According to Tuskegee Institute, which has long kept the score, only five persons were lynched last year. Of these one was white and four Negroes. The lynchings occured in Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; Tennessee, 1.

Thus the evidence continues that lynching is on the way out in the United States. Compare the nine of 1936, the eight of 1937, the six of 1938, the five of 1939, to take the highest of disputed figures for that year, the five of 1940 with the 231 lynchings of 1892.

The South, which has been the worst offender, is cleaning itself up without a federal statute. Officers of the law in these Southern states now get a backing in doing their duty which was formerly absent. Southern sentiment can now be counted definitely against lynching. It cannot be long now before that sentiment will be strong enough to stop even the irresponsibles who still try to take the law into their own hands.

Yet the United States will be shamed so long as any part of this outrage remains. How great and indefensible an outrage it is appears in Tuskegee Institute's list of the offenses charged against the five persons lynched in 1940. They were: Wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.," 1. Tuskegee does not inform us which of these offenses was charged against the one white man lynched. Obviously it could hardly have been any one of the last three. This list of charged offenses makes its own comment.—San Francisco Chronicle.

BAY CITY MICH TIMES
SUNDAY JANUARY 5 1941

98 Lynchers More Active

The champions of the ever present anti-lynching bill will have more reason to demand its passage by the present congress than they could allege last term.

There were five mob executions in 1940 compared with three in 1939. Which they will probably argue creates almost twice as much demand for action.

That is not likely to get them very far. The southern statesmen in the senate have a way of standing together on the subject of state rights in this particular; and they evidently think that elastic term includes the right to hang a Negro without trial.

The lynchings last year occurred two each in Alabama and Georgia and one in Tennessee. One victim was strung up for attempted attack on a white woman, another for trying to qualify to vote, one for wife beating and drunkenness, a fourth for failing to refer to a white man as "Mister," and the luckless last for arguing with a "colonel."

Rep. Dies has never made a move to investigate lynching as subversive or un-American. He is a southerner, it might be explained. Possibly thinks it is a patrotic activity.

PORTLAND ME PRESS HERALD

Lynching Record

President Patterson of Tuskegee Institute has issued the annual lynching record which shows that the year 1940 witnessed the mob execution of four Negroes and one White. This number is greater by two than the number of lynchings in 1939, but better than the figure for 1938 by one and better by three than the record for each of the years 1937 and 1938. As usual the figures showed some peculiarly flagrant instances of failure of law officers, for one of the lynched persons was first taken from a jail and another was shot to death in jail. Yet it is worth noting that law officers prevented 22 lynchings, three of them in Northern States, and actually saved 28 persons, four of them Whites, from the hands of mobs. These figures may be somewhat altered when investigations of six other cases have been completed.

The states in which lynchings occurred were Georgia and Alabama, two each, and Tennessee. The offenses charged were wife-beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr." However much improved the lynching record may be as compared with that of some decades ago when scores of mob murders were reported and nobody knows how many others were ignored, it is still a discredit to the South that so many trivial offenses may be magnified by race hatred into pretexts for mob action. Nevertheless, in the Southern States, officers of the law by proper vigilance prevented violence in a score of instances which formerly might have progressed into lynching "parties." Perhaps it is to be argued that this newer interest of the authorities in prevention of lynchings is responsible for the improved record and not a change in racial hatred. If so, the answer to this burning problem is continued national publicity for all lynchings and the further cultivation of state pride in freedom from mass crimes indefensible in a democracy that believes in government by law and not by men.

VICKSBURG MISS POST
JAN. 5, 1941

Mob Law in 1940

Several anti-lynching bills are to be introduced in the next congress. While it is predicted that the administration forces will guard against permitting this controversial issue reaching the filibuster stage, one may well ask why should congress pay the slightest attention to proponents of such pernicious proposals at a time when the whole efforts of the government is bent to the one objective which the country must achieve in order to secure the maximum results in carrying out the country's gigantic defense program—national unity?

The lynching evil has virtually become a thing of the past. And this gratifying condition of law observance has been brought about through the weight of public opinion. The overwhelming sentiment of the public has always been against mob law of any kind. The public is opposed to mob murder in the south just as the public is opposed to mob murder in the north. Lynchings are being wiped out in the south just as gangster murders are being wiped out in the north.

There is no more reason for congress placing a mantle of shame on the south because of mob murder than there is for placing the mantle of shame on the north for mob murder. The people of both sections will and can eliminate both evils by voluntary effort of local law enforcement agencies without having the federal government step in to assume powers that belong strictly to local governments.

The following information concerning lynching for the year 1940, was received at the week end by The Evening Post from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute who has the most authentic information on lynchings. It is self-explanatory and no further evidence is needed to show how the lynching evil is being wiped out in the south. Incidentally the letter reveals that no crime of lynching marred the record of Mississippi during the past year, which attests the efficiency of state and local law enforcement officials. The letter reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19

of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 4 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as 'Mr.'

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

"There are 6 cases concerning which information at the present time is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; Louisiana, 1."

The 14 to 7 victory of Mississippi State over Georgetown in the Orange bowl establishes the 1940 Maroons as one of the four great football teams of the year. Coach McKeen has developed a great team at State, probably the strongest team in the history of the state, and is due the praise being heaped upon him. But the coach in turn points out that all the honors for the success of this year's team go to the players, the finest set of boys he ever coached.

EL DORADO, KS. TIMES
JAN. 3, 1941 J21

LYNCHINGS DECREASE

From famous Tuskegee Institute come statistics on lynchings during 1940. Five persons, one white and four negroes, lost their lives at the hands of mobs—two more than in 1939, one less than in 1938 and three less than in 1937 and 1936. Two of the lynchings occurred in Alabama, two in Georgia, one in Tennessee and the offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote, altercation with a white man, and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr."

During the year there were 22 reports of instances in which officers prevented lynchings, 19 of which occurred in the southern states. In each instance, happily, the life of the prisoner was saved.

Lynching is an American institution—and one of which Americans cannot be proud. But it is on the way out. Gradual progress is being made, and it is to be hoped that within a few years the blot will have been completely erased.

Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

Lynch Record Increases Two For Past Year

JAN 2 1941

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — Only five persons were lynched in 1940 "officially", according to a report received this week from F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, based on records compiled by the Department of Records and Research.

This is two more than the number, three, in 1939, one less than the number six for 1938, and three less than the number, eight, for each of the years of 1936 and 1937.

A total number of 28 persons, 4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men were saved from the hands of mobs when officers prevented lynchings.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were colored. The lynchings occurred in Georgia and Alabama, two each, and Tennessee. They were lynched on charges of wife beating and drunkenness, attempted rape, attempting to qualify to vote and an altercation with a white man.

The Union
Cincinnati, Ohio

Five lynchings in the South, none for rape, but one for not calling "a gentleman of Georgia," Mister.

JAN 2 1941

"Upon what meat doth this our

The Union
Cincinnati; Ohio

TUSKEGEE CORRECTS SCORE!

He Didn't Call the White Man "Mister," And That Was His Fatal Mistake, For It Hurried Him to Heaven, And the "Rope Route" He Did Take.

JAN 2 1941

Kindly correct recently issued statement by Tuskegss Institute on lynchings as follows:

There were 5 persons lynched in 1940. One was white and 4 were Negroes.

The offenses charged were: wife-beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and FAILURE TO REFER TO A WHITE MAN AS "MR", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number occurring in each state are as follows: Alabama, 2; Georgia, 2; and Tennessee, 1.

Very truly yours,
F. D. PATTERSON,
President.

Palmetto Leader
Columbia, S. C.

Five Persons Lynched in 1940

JAN 4 1941

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., December 19, 1940—According to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research that there were 5 persons lynched in 1940. This is 2 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 1 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 3 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, I was whiite and 4 were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; altercation with a white man, 1; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mr.", 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama 2; and Tennessee, 1.

Alabama 1; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases in the following states: Alabama 1; Georgia 3; Tennessee 1, and Louisiana, 1.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

6581

DALLAS, TEX. SW. BUSINESS
JAN. 10, 1941

FIVE LYNCHED IN 1940

Based on the records kept by Tuskegee Institute, Alabama's famous Negro college, only five persons were lynched in the United States during 1940, one a white man and the other four Negroes. Two of the victims were killed in Georgia, two in Alabama, and one in Tennessee.

According to the report, the white man was lynched for wife beating and drunkenness; three Negroes for attempted criminal assaults on white women, and the other for attempting to qualify to vote and engaging in altercations with a white man.

Compared with the horrible prevalence of lynching during the latter part of the last century, this crime has been remarkably infrequent in recent years. Only eight were lynched in 1936, eight in 1937, six in 1938, and three in 1939, which was the lowest for any year during which records were kept, beginning with 1882.

Lynching reached its most frightful height in 1892, when no less than 231 persons were killed by mobs, 69 of the victims being white men. The next largest number lynched in a single year was 211, in 1884, and of these 160 were white. Since 1882 a total of 4,695 persons have been lynched, of whom 1,292 were white.

The resort to lynching is indefensible under any circumstances, and it is a reflection on any community in which it occurs. The fact that lynchings have been reduced from 231 in 1892 to an average of only six a year in the last five years gives hope that this blot on American civilization may soon be entirely removed.

LAKE CHARLES, LA., PRESS
JAN. 1, 1941

Fewer Lynchings

Lynchings continued to decrease in the past year, according to a report from the Tuskogee Institute. Fewer attempts were made in 1940 than in previous years, and more of them were killed. In this one thing for which the South has been severely criticized in the past, notable progress was made.

At the present rate it will not be long before this type of lawlessness will be gone forever from the South. Steadily the number of lynchings has declined in recent years. In a short while, we shall hear of them no more.

Congress has repeatedly had before it anti-lynching bills which congressmen from the South have fought because they considered them not only a reflection on this area but also the wrong way to go about solving the problem. Federal interference would never remove this evil, and it might aggravate it. Southern congressmen have argued that in a little while, the problem would no longer exist. The decline in lynchings this year confirms these arguments and further removes the chances for adoption of this unnecessary and unwise legislation.

PARKERSBURG W VA SENTINEL
SATURDAY JANUARY 4 1941

REPORT ON LYNCHINGS

The Sentinel is in receipt of the annual statement on lynchings by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, a colored educational institution of high standing. The report says that five persons were lynched in 1940, one was white and four were Negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; altercation with a white man, one; and failure to refer to a white man as "Mister," one. States in which lynchings occurred and the number occuring in each state are as follows: Alabama, two; Georgia, two; and Tennessee, one.

* * *

These figures indicate plainly that the number of lynchings in the United States is far fewer than it was a score of years ago. We read of few such law violations in newspapers nowadays although the press makes vigorous effort to cover all such happenings. We wonder whether all those enumerated in this report were actual lynchings by a mob in the generally accepted term or were some of them simply the result of quarrels or fights between individuals which resulted in murder on the part of one of them.

SALEM, ORE., STATESMAN
JANUARY 7, 1941

Five Lynchings—and Why

The Tuskegee Institute has issued its annual report on lynchings. There were five in 1940, as compared to only three in 1939. Four of those lynched in 1940 were negroes, as compared to two the previous year. The revival of this barbarous practice after a series of reductions from year to year had reduced it almost to the vanishing point, is discouraging but even so the total number is not alarming.

Less edifying even than the statistics, however, is a recapitulation of the "offenses" charged, the provocations for the mob-slayingers. The *white* man was accused of wife-beating and drunkenness. One negro was accused of attempted rape, well-recognized as sufficient grounds, to a southerner, for violence assuming that the intended victim was a white woman.

But one negro was lynched for "attempting to qualify to vote;" another for having an "altercation with a white man" and a third for "failure to refer to a white man as 'mister'."

There are still places in the United States where criticism of conditions in nazi Germany is inappropriate.

ROCK ISLAND ILL. ARGUS
THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1941

Law of the Jungle.

Tuskegee Institute, the great educational institution for negroes founded by Booker T Washington, has prepared its annual report on lynching. The report reads:

"There were five persons lynched in 1940. This is two more than the number three for the year 1939, one less than the number six for the year 1938 and three less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; one was shot to death in jail.

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In one case armed force was used. A total of 28 persons—four white men, two negro women and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, one was white and four were negro. The offenses charged were: Wife beating and drunkenness, one; attempted rape, one; attempting to qualify to vote, one; and an altercation with white man, one, and failure to refer to a white man as 'Mr.', one.

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, two; Alabama, two, and Tennessee, one.

"There are six cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete."

We have come a long way from the dark days of 1892 when the United States celebrated the 400th anniversary of its discovery with 255 lynchings, but we have not yet arrived at that social abhorrence of this crime which must precede its extinction. Four lynchings in 1940 show that we have made gains since 1892 in curbing mob rule, or the law of the jungle, but it is only a proportional reduction in savagery.

Until there are no lynchings and until officers do not have to hide their prisoners from angry mobs, it cannot be said that racial passions have been brought under civilized control.

MINERAL WELLS, TEX INDEX
JAN. 7, 1941 J14

LYNCHINGS DECREASE IN U. S. DURING 1940

F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, which was founded by Booker T. Washington in 181, Tuskegee, Ala., sent in the following interesting report on the decrease of lynchings in the United States:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the department of records and research, that there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards agumented or both precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; atempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1."

COLUMBUS OHIO STATE JOURNAL
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8 1941

Decline in Lynchings

PERHAPS no other agency than the good sense and good citizenship of the southern people has done so much in recent years to suppress the crime of lynching.

In this respect southern women themselves have been leaders. Both whites and blacks of the southern states, under circumstances that we of the north know little about by experience, have had a measure of real or tacit cooperation in regard not only to suppressing lynching but also in cutting down crimes for which lynching has been mistakenly supposed to be the proper penalty and deterrent.

Statistics of Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, regarding lynchings during 1940 are gratifying, despite the fact that the number increased from three in 1939 to five last year. For the numbers in both cases show a remarkable decrease from the old days.

Not only is it gratifying that lynchings are decreasing, but it is pleasing to note that 22 lynchings were averted by officers of the law. It further is of note that only three states, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee, out of our 48, had lynchings.

In the older days lynching was considered a protection for the white womanhood of the south. In 1940 only one person was accused of an attempt at such violation of the law as has been charged almost en masse against southern colored men. No lynching ever is justified, no mobs are excusable, but if there ever was an approach to justification it might be supposed to lie in summarily dealing with a man actually known to have committed a crime against a woman, certainly not of a man merely suspected or accused. Of the five who were lynched in 1940 only one was accused and he was lynched because he was suspected of attempted, not actual, attack.

WASHINGTON D C POST
JAN 1 1941

Three States Disgraced

Every American ought to be chagrined at the report coming from Tuskegee Institute showing an increase in lynchings last year. It is true that the total number of these mob murders is not large. Only four lives were claimed by infuriated gangs taking the law into their own hands, compared with three lynchings in 1939. But that black mark against American democracy seems particularly inexcusable at a time when this Nation is throwing its influence into the balance against barbarous practices in other parts of the world.

Of course, the report from Tuskegee is not without its brighter aspects. The victims of mob violence in 1940 were only half as numerous as they were in both 1936 and 1937. The current report is the most favorable for any year, except 1939. Tuskegee's department of records and research found, moreover, that 28 persons had been saved from the hands of mobs by officers of the law. Obviously the law-enforcement officials of the Southern States are far more diligent in protecting the lives of accused persons than they were a few years ago. And all but three of the States kept their records entirely clear of lynchings in 1940.

Those three States—Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee—have taken the full disgrace of the 1940 lynchings upon themselves. A year ago every State except Florida and Mississippi had cleared its records. Was it the stigma which attached to them for keeping this barbarous custom alive in 1939 that inspired Mississippi and Florida to prevent mob murders within their borders during 1940? In any event, the three States which permitted mob violence to be substituted for fair trial in 1940 should now feel the full reproach of the American people for these outrages. The indignation of the people will be intensified by the fact that one of the Negroes who was lynched was merely attempting to qualify to vote. Another met his fate, according to the Tuskegee report, because of an "altercation with a white man."

Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee owe a duty to the American people to prevent any recurrence of this disgusting practice in 1941. If they devote themselves earnestly to that task, it will be accomplished far more satisfactorily than it ever could be through the enactment of an unconstitutional Federal anti-lynching law.

MIDDLETOWN CONN PRESS
JAN 2 1941

The annual report from the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama again indicates that lynchings have been curbed by official activities in the Southern states. Only five lynchings were reported this year and one was a white man.

Globe and Independent
Nashville, Tenn
JAN 3 1941

'ACCORDING TO REPORTS'

The Nashville Globe has pioneered in dissenting from the reports on lynchings as sent out by Tuskegee Institute annually. We see no reason to change our opinion that the newspaper reports on lynchings as compiled by Tuskegee are not necessarily a complete score of this great American pastime.

There is no telling how many more lynchings, such as the one that took place in Tennessee in 1940, escaped detection by our usually alert newspapers. There was considerable activity by the N. A. A. C. P., and other interested parties carried on before newspapers found out that a brutal lynching had taken place in Brownsville, Tennessee.

The Tuskegee report says there were four lynchings in the United States in 1940 and of these, three were Negroes and one was white.

A significant part of this year's report from Tuskegee is in the last paragraph which reads as follows:

"There are 6 cases concerning whch information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1 and Louisiana, 1."

And so, we may have had a minimum total of ten lynchings in the United States in 1940, and there is no telling how big the maximum total was.

Congress will soon be in session and the annual attempt will be made to pass a Federal Anti-Lynching Law. We can forecast, right now, that the Tuskegee report, which concedes there were four lynchings, will be the text of any number of addresses delivered by Dixie Statesmen, who very likely will again find an able ally in the Hon. James Wadsworth, the reactionary, anti-Tom Dewey Republican of New York state. These orators will say let lynching alone, it is fast dying out, according to the carefully kept records from Tuskegee Institute.

Anticipating their blah, blah, we go on record in advance as believing the Tuskegee report is very radically incomplete.

LYNCHING - 1940
REPORTS ON SENT PRESS

JAN- DEC.

6582

Jackson, Miss., Daily Clarion Ledger
December 30, 1940

Southern Officers of the Law Put Strong Curb On Lynchings

It will be a little difficult for that band of South-haters in Congress to make much progress with their anti-lynching bill, during the next session with the record of the year 1940 before the people of the country.

This record shows that by displaying the greatest courage officers of the South prevented twenty-two lynchings, and that mobs were only successful in four cases.

The figures as given out by President F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute show that officers of the law in the Southern states have this matter well in hand. This is the statement of President Patterson:

"I send you the following information concerning lynchings for the year 1940. I find, according to the reports compiled in the Department of Records and Research, that there were 4 persons lynched in 1940. This is 1 more than the number 3 for the year 1939, 2 less than the number 6 for the year 1938, and 4 less than the number 8 for each of the years 1937 and 1936. One of the persons lynched was taken from the jail; 1 was shot to death in jail.

"There were 22 reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in northern states, and 19 of the reported instances were in Southern states. In 21 instances, persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken. In 1 case, armed force was used. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 negro women, and 22 negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

"Of the persons lynched, 1 was white and 3 were negro. The offenses charged were: wife beating and drunkenness, 1; attempted rape, 1; attempting to qualify to vote, 1; and an altercation with white man, 1.

"States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each state are as follows: Georgia, 2; Alabama, 1; and Tennessee, 1.

"There are 6 cases concerning which information, at the present time, is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in the following states: Alabama, 1; Georgia, 3; Tennessee, 1; and Louisiana, 1."

It is most gratifying to the people of Mississippi to know that not a single lynching took place in this state during the year that is just coming to a close.

Sandersville, Ga., Progress
January 2, 1941

The 1940 Lynching Record

During the past twenty years Tuskegee Institute of Alabama has kept a record of lynchings in the United States. By disseminating the information each year the public became conscious-minded of this horrible crime. A campaign of education was started and this has materially lessened lynchings during this period. In 1939 there were three lynchings while last year the total was four. Of this number one was white and three Negroes.

During 1940 there were 22 instances where officers of the law stood their ground and did their duty and prevented lynchings. In some states sheriffs are removed from office when they fail to prevent a lynching. This too has had a wholesome effect in stiffening the backbone of officers of the law. In Georgia the state highway patrol have prevented lynchings several times. However, Georgia led the nation in lynchings last year with two. Alabama and Tennessee had one each.

Each year for the past decade the anti-lynching bill has been introduced in congress by northern congressmen, but the measure has always been defeated with the help of southern members. The next step would be to educate criminals not to commit the usual crime which provokes a lynching.

Suffolk, Va., News-Herald
January 11, 1941

Four Lynchings Last Year

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, which keeps a record of lynchings, reports that four persons, three of whom were Negroes and one white, met death in this manner in the year 1940. The number for 1939 was three, six in 1938 and eight each in the years 1937 and 1936. The states in which lynchings occurred last year are Georgia 2, Alabama 1, and Tennessee 1.

In the light of this record, lynching is a rare crime and one that is likely to occur only in those handful of states in which public sentiment against it is weakest. There has not been such a crime in Virginia since the General Assembly enacted a strict law against mob violence, which was during the Byrd administration.

Public sentiment in Virginia demanded an end to the crime of lynching and local and state authorities, armed with this law and the support of the public, have been able to end it. This, of course, is no assurance that such a crime will never again occur in our state. There may be one today or tomorrow but it is no more likely to take place under our present state law than it would be under the proposed Federal law.

The anti-lynching legislation in Congress has been made a political football, and, if enacted, it will be no assurance that there will never be another lynching.—(Clifton Forge Daily Review.)

Chattanooga, Tenn. Evening Times
Jan 1 1941

LYNCHINGS

The South had four lynchings in 1940, according to records of the Tuskegee Institute. One victim was white, the other three were Negroes.

In 1939, there were only three lynchings, but in 1938 there were six, and in years previous to that the number was far higher.

Georgia had two lynchings in 1940, Tennesse and Alabama had one each. Virginia, which has an effective State anti-lynching law, has had no lynching in twelve years.

Offenses charged in cases leading to lynchings during 1940 were wife-beating and drunkenness in one, attempted rape in another, attempting to qualify to vote in a third and a fight with a white man in the fourth.

There were twenty-two instances where officers of the law are said to have prevented possible lynchings in 1940.

The evil is being curbed, but it should be abolished entirely. Every lynching is a shameful blot on the civilization of the South.

Bristol, Va., Herald-Courier
December 29, 1940

Four Lynchings.

Reports compiled by the department of records and research of Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee, Alabama, show that four persons have been lynched this year. This is one more than the number lynched last year, but it is two less than the number six for 1938, and four less than the number eight for each of the years 1937 and 1936.

Of the persons lynched, one was white and three were Negroes. The offenses charged were wifebeating and drunkenness in one case, attempted rape in another, attempting to qualify to vote in another, and altercation with a white man in the other. One of the mob victims was taken from jail and another was shot to death in jail.

States in which lynchings occurred and the number in each State were Georgia two, Alabama one and Tennessee one. The report states that there are six cases concerning which information at the present time is regarded as uncertain or incomplete. These cases are in Alabama one, Georgia three, Tennessee one and Louisiana one.

There were twenty-two reports of instances in which officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern States and nineteen in Southern States. In twenty-one instances persons were removed or guards augmented or other precautions taken, while in one instance armed force was used to foil the mob. In the twenty-two instances twenty-eight persons—four white men, twenty-two Negro men and two Negro women—were saved from mob murder.

There have been only four lynchings this year, but that is four too many. And again Tennessee appears in the list of States that have been disgraced with one lynching and one instance concerning which information is incomplete. What every State needs is an anti-lynching law like that of Virginia, a State in which there has not been a lynching in twelve or fifteen years.

We are getting away from mob lawlessness. Both the number of lynchings and attempted lynchings is on the decline. The fact is heartening and is due largely to increasing public sentiment against mob crimes. No doubt the record could be further improved by more determined enforcement of the laws. The first duty of the responsible authorities is to prevent lynchings, if possible, their next duty to hunt down and punish mobs which succeed in their purpose. Consistent and conscientious discharge of those duties would put an end to mob murders.

Roanoke, Va., World News
December 28, 1940

The Lynching Record

According to the records of Tuskegee Institute, four persons were lynched during the year 1940. This is one more than the number, three, in 1939, two less than the number, six, for the year 1938, and four less than the number, eight, for each of the years 1937 and 1936. The figures give hope that this hideous crime that has brought discredit on the South is disappearing. It has disappeared wherever public opinion has been exerted against it.

One of the persons lynched was taken from jail; one shot to death in jail.

There were twenty-two reports of instances where officers of the law prevented lynchings. Three of the reported instances were in Northern States, 19 in Southern States. In 21 instances, suspects were removed or guards augmented, or other precautions taken. In one case, armed force was used for protection of a prisoner. A total number of 28 persons—4 white men, 2 Negro women, and 22 Negro men—were thus saved from the hands of mobs.

Of the persons lynched one was white and three were Negroes. The offenses charged were—wife beating and drunkenness, attempted criminal assault, attempting to qualify to vote, and an altercation with a white man.

States in which lynchings occurred, and the number in each State were: Georgia 2, Alabama 1, Tennessee 1.

Tuskegee Institute, which has compiled these records for many years, pursues a conservative course. It defines lynching as attacks on the law as well as on an unarmed and defenseless prisoner. Fights, altercations, homicides and other crimes are excluded from its list, which attempts to define lynching as an attack on the law, and on law enforcement officers, and on the courts, as well as on the accused individual.

Thus Tuskegee reports that there are six cases concerning which information at the present time is regarded as uncertain and incomplete, though some other compilers may include them in the list of 1940 lynchings. These cases are in the following States: Alabama 1, Georgia 3, Tennessee 1 and Louisiana 1.

The Tuskegee record makes no effort to follow through in the cases of the four admitted lynchings in 1940. There is no indications that any definie steps were taken by the authorities of Georgia, Alabama or Tennessee to arrest and punish those who took part in these attacks on the law and on the courts. Experience has shown that lynching will end in any State when members of lynching mobs are promptly arrested, tried and sentenced for their part in these mob murders. Lynching will not be eradicated by act of Congress, much as that issue has been made a political football. It will be wholly eradicated when public opinion demands punishment of those who take part, and removal from office of those supine officials who fail to offer resistance.

From the Lynching Record for 1940

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, that long has kept a complete record of lynchings throughout the United States, reports but four mob-victims during the year just past. However, that is one more than the 1939 figure—the lowest in the Institute's 58-year records.

All four outrages occurred during the last half-year. As none was reported during the last six months of 1939, the Nation actually had a "lynchless year" from July 1, 1939, to June 30, 1940.

No doubt, jubilation on the prospective early banishment of Judge Lynch would prove premature. Mob crimes recur in waves, and a series of such outbreaks again could put the Nation to shame and mock its civilization.

For all that, the published record does show sturdy progress during the past two years, toward eradicating the lynch-murder infamy. Many influences have contributed to that progress. Perhaps the periodic reports from Tuskegee, merely giving the facts and figures to the people—and the comments on them in the press, pulpit, platform and legislative hall—have been most effective. Besides, the earnest continuing crusade that the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching and numerous co-operating organizations have waged has prodded the civic conscience.

Though it won only House approval (it passed that branch twice) the Gavagan Bill has served a useful purpose. The very belated agitation has read a stern warning to officials who has been disposed to wink at mob violence or even connive at it.

Significantly, Tuskegee Institute reports 22 instances of mobs having been frustrated by courageous, resourceful sheriffs and other peace officers. One of the four victims reported was a white man (charged with wife-beating); and a Negro victim reputedly had attempted to register as a voter! Those are typical cases of mob "justice."

Georgia is charged with two lynchings; Tennessee and Louisiana with one each. Again this year Texas shows a clean slate. That is occasion for gratification — but better keep alert. The Nation hears talk as to surreptitious lynchings "off the record." Tuskegee Institute—taking up the challenge—is investigating six such cases, on which it will report later.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

ALABAMA

6583

Farmer Is Chased From Home By Mob After Prosecuting Man For Assault

MONTGOMERY, Ala. Feb. 9—James Stokes, 55, a farmer from Deatsville, is this week walking the streets of the state capital, a man without a home although he owns his 40-acre farm, cattle and poultry and is know as a well-to-do and respected citizen in his native rural community.

Stokes was forced to flee for his life January 15 when a mob stormed his home and smashed windows and doors as a retaliation for his having prosecuted a white man. The farmer fled during the night to save his family and home from further harm.

This man whom Stokes prosecuted was subsequently found guilty of invading the farmer's home and attacking him with a club. The guilty verdict was returned after Stokes, accompanied by 16 white witnesses, 12 of them women, traveled to Wetumpka county seat and testified against the white hoodlum. He was fined $270 and placed on a $1,000 peace bond.

Despite this court action the mob formed about the Stokes' home the following day, and threatened to burn it down unless the farmer got out of town."

Stokes made his way back to Wetumpka and reported the incident to a sheriff who he said, told him he "wasn't paid to protect Negroes against white folks." Efforts were being made this week to interest the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the case.

In explaining how the man happened to invade his home, Stokes said that on the morning this incident occurred he was standing in front of his cottage when two white men approached. One offered him some whiskey, and when the drink was refused both became angry.

When the farmer turned and walked into his house he was followed by the larger of the men who had picked up a club. After being struck several times, Stokes said he seized his rifle off the wall and disarmed the intruder after which he beat him and threw him out of the house. This man left but returned several hours later accompanied by some 30 armed men.

Saturday, Stokes' wife and oldest son were reported still at the family home but afraid to venture out as members of the mob were still prowling in the vicinity in hope of catching Stokes.

3 Ala. Cops to Face Trial Over Lynching

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— The three police officers and another man, all white, said to be responsible for the recent lynching of O'Dee Henderson, 24-year-old steel worker, in the Fairfield police station, have been indicted on second-degree murder charges, according to Arthur D. Shores, local NAACP attorney, who is fighting the case.

POLICE MOB KILLS NEGRO STEEL WORKER IN BIRMINGHAM JAIL

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The local branch of the N. A. A. C. P. has engaged Attorney A. D. Shores to lead the legal fight to bring to justice the members of a lynch mob who killed O'Dee Henderson, 24-year-old steel worker within the confines of the Fairfield Police station here ten days ago.

According to Dr. Charles A. J. McPherson, Secretary of the branch, the lynching of Henderson, which is said to have been accomplished with the aid of outsiders who helped local police officials to beat the youthful steel worker to death, is the culmination of a long series of brutal acts perpetrated by local police against Negro citizens.

Coincident with the announcement, Dr. McPherson stated that more than 1,000 new members joined the N. A. A. C. P. in the recent membership drive, the largest in the history of the branch.

"This shows," he said, "that Negro citizens here are determined to organize and put a stop to the lynchings which have plagued our people so long. And it is important to point out," he added, "that many white citizens here are working with us in the fight for full citizenship."

JAIL THREE POLICE OFFICERS WHO LYNCHED ALABAMA STEEL WORKER

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The three police officers and another man, all white, who were responsible for the lynching of O'Dee Henderson, 24-year-old steel worker in the Fairfield Police station here last fortnight, have been indicted on second degree murder charges, it was stated by Arthur D. Shores, local N.A.A.C.P. attorney, who is fighting the case.

All the defendants were placed in jail and bond set at $2,500 each. The officer who shot and killed Henderson was kept in jail for nearly two weeks, unable to raise bond. The others are free on bond. The cases will come up for trial on June 17 and 24.

Birmingham, Ala. News
August 7, 1940

Houston Sheriff Asks Officials To Launch Inquiry Of His Office

Watford Calls On Dixon And Others To Look Into Grand Jury Affair

DOTHAN, Ala.—What was termed a "blanket invitation" for Gov. Dixon and other state and Houston County officials to come before the Grand Jury and tell what they know about jury "tampering" was before the Grand Jury here today.

Sheriff U. G. Watford, who has been criticized by state auditors for the manner in which he has kept accounts and charged with various derelictions in regard to arrest and confinement of prisoners, in a written statement read to the Grand Jury challenged that body to investigate charges the sheriff had tried to influence prospective members of the jury.

Aug. 6, 1940.

"Houston County Grand Jury,

"I am advised that impeachment proceedings in practically all cases instituted against public officials in Alabama except for offenses growing out of lynchings have resulted from the investigations and recommendations made by local Grand Juries.

"The governor of Alabama has deemed fit to disregard this long established custom in Alabama and take from the people of Houston County its lawful prerogative to investigate its own public officials and to make recommendations with reference to them. The excuse given by the governor for this unusual procedure by usually reliable sources in Houston County is that an effort has been made to contact the men selected for Grand Jury service in Houston County to the end no impeachment charges would be preferred against me.

"It is also stated in The Dothan Eagle, the local newspaper which interested the governor in taking a hand in this proceedings, that rumors are afloat in Dothan to the effect that an effort has been made to contact members of this jury for the purpose of wrongfully influencing its deliberations.

"These are serious indictments and they materially affect the good name of Houston County and all its citizens. The implication that the courts of Houston County are incapable of functioning in a lawful and honorable manner is not only a reflection on this jury but is a reflection on the entire citizenship of the county.

"I therefore call upon you as the only lawful constituted investigating body to go to the bottom of these charges and if they are found to be true to place the responsibility where it rightfully belongs, but if they prove to be untrue to place the responsibility for spreading these false and malicious charges where they justly belong.

"I invite a full and complete investigation at your hands to this end that you call before this honorable body as witnesses, all persons who know or are alleged to know of any efforts to contaminate or tamper with the members of this jury before it was organized in order that the people of Houston County may be fully advised of what has been done and who have been the actors in these proceedings.

"Respectfully submitted."
Signed
U. G. WATFORD,
Sheriff.

Some Notes for Author Of an Unwritten Novel

NOV 11 1940

By Nancy Blake

A young Negro talks with his friends in front of the barber shop. "There comes Doris Rhodes, boys," he says.

The policeman, hearing the remark, stops.

"What did you say?" he asks.

Thornton hesitates a moment, then speaks. "I said, 'There comes Mr. Rhodes, boys'."

The officer curses him and accuses him of failing to say, "Mr." Thornton admits it, whereupon, the policeman knocks him down with a blackjack and then starts to lead him toward the jail. Thornton tries to break loose but a crowd which has gathered turns him back with flying stones. Near the jail door he makes a second attempt to escape—five shots are fired at him from the growing mob, but he breaks through and keeps running—about three-quarters of a mile into the open fields. He has to pause now and then to wipe the blood from his face. The mob gains on him and finally in sheer exhaustion he gives himself up into their hands. They shove him in a truck and drive on into the swamp. Shortly gun-shots ark through the silence of the pen country.

Only 30 minutes have elapsed since esse Thornton talked with his riends in town. Now, the mob reurns from the swamp and captures esse's wife. They keep her out in he woods all night, terrifying her o that she refuses to speak to any-

NOV 11 1940

Discover Body of 'Unidentified Negro'

Four days later, Stephan Thompon, fishing in the Pataylagga River ees a flock of vultures on the shore. He finds them feasting on the dead ody of Jesse Thornton. He reorts his discovery to town offial. The local papers announce hat the body of an unidentified egro was found in the river.

This occurred in America, in 1940, the state of Alabama, on June . Seven Americans have been nched this year, four Negroes, two hite men and one white woman. he three white people were beaten death by the Ku Klux Klan. One the Negroes, Elbert Williams, was ndered by a mob in Brownsville, xas, because he led a group of roes to register for the Novem- lections. These are brutal and unforgettable violations of the law of our land as outlined in the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments of our Constitution. None of those responsible for them have been punished by state or federal action.

In Canton, Miss., on May 3, 1939, Joe Rodgers was tortured with hot irons and shot after an argument with a lumber foreman in which he protested a wage-cut of $5.50 for the rent of a company shack. In 1939 there were five lynchings.

Lynching Goes Underground

These figures for the last two years, reported by the NAACP and other sources, cover only the "authenticated" lynchings. Meanwhile the number of un-reported, so-called "quiet" lynchings have been increasing. At least twenty of them occured in 1939. According to a report, sponsored by Senators Wagner and Capper, . . . "Sentiment is growing against lynching. Agitation for state and federal laws gives pause to the lynching crowd. Lynching, they say, must go on, but it must be done quietly so as not to attract attention. . . . In some lonely swamp a small body of men do the job formerly done by a vast howling, blood-thirsty mob composed of men, women and children. This is the new and dangerous methods devised by those who seek to rule by terror and intimidation."

Terror and intimidation—lynch law—for generations these have served "those who seek to rule" the South. They fan the fires of racial intolerance in order to divide the ranks of Negro and white labor and make difficult our unionization and organization for our common welfare.

More than 5,000 persons have been lynched in America since 1882. One quarter of the victims have been white people. In 99.2 per cent of the lynchings nothing has been done to apprehend or punish the murderers. In the seven years be- 10[illegible] lynchings—more than one a month.

Many of us have been told that lynchings are a spontaneous reaction against attacks by Negroes on white women. This is false; only a small proportion of persons lynched are even accused of rape—about one-sixth in more than 40 years. More often, the murdered victim may not have committed any crime, or only a minor offense. For any crime whatsoever the accused is entitled to fair trial by the courts; moreover, Article 14 of our Constitution provides that no . . . "State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of the law, nor deny to any person within jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." We must look behind the alleged reasons to find the cause and purposes of lynchings.

From the days of slavery to the present when the Negro is made to accept lower wages than the white man, Southern economy has been based on getting the cheapest possible labor supply. It takes force to accomplish this, as we well know. Violent methods as well as legal means are needed to suppress a whole people such as the Negro race. Behind all the flimsy rationalizations and blood-thirsty emotions of those who use lynch law, and although they may not always be aware of it this is the infamous, undemocratic cause for which each of the 5000 murdered citizens have been put to death.

The Lynch Spirit Grows

Fired by the war hysteria which threatens all our civil liberties the lynch spirit grows and lynch mobs widen their field of action not only in the South. Remember during the last war "for democracy" 96 Negroes were lynched Again the Negro people are called upon to defend democracy. Roosevelt rules that 36,000 out of the first 400,000 men drafted under the conscription law, shall be Negroes. We may well ask him how many of their brothers, fathers, sons, wives and mothers will be drafted into the legions of the lynch dead. Just a few days before the lynching of Jesse Thornton, Senator Barkley announced that the Anti-Lynch Bill would not be taken up in the House because of the defense program, the administration and its backers seek to hide from the people the real dangers to the real defense of America. In so doing they act against the people's will and the public interest.

NOV 11 1940

Pass the Anti-Lynch Bill

Back in 1937 a poll by the American Institute of Public Opinion found that 65 per cent of the Southern voters were in favor of making lynching a federal crime. Today the support of the Anti-Lynch Bill grows rapidly. Southern and Northern groups, Negro and white organizations fight for the outlawing of lynch law. Organized labor as a whole and other progressive sections of the country are with them. Just so long as the threat of lynching hangs over the South—and the North—just that much harder will it be to organize millions of unorganized workers, both black and white, just that much harder will it be for the people of America to speak out and unite for peace, jobs and security.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

FLORIDA

Lynching of Jobless Fla. Man Kept Secret

(EXCLUSIVE)

EVERGLADES, Fla.—An unidentified man, who allegedly, refused to go to work, was lynched by his white accusers here on January 25, according to reports from reliable citizens living near this village.

No arrests were made and no news of the incident was published in the daily papers.

The informants said that similar cases are common throughout this section, where white men commit murder on the slightest pretense, without fear of prosecution from officials of the law.

SONG ON LYNCHING ON STADIUM LIST

Ballad by Katherine G. Chapin to Be Given by White and Negro Chorus June 24

The first performance of a ballad for white and Negro chorus, orchestra, contralto soloist and narrator by William Grant Still, who has composed a musical setting to the poem of Katherine Garrison Chapin, will be presented at the Lewisohn Stadium on Monday evening, June 24, the Stadium concerts committee announced yesterday.

The new work is called "And They Lynched Him on a Tree." A chorus of fifty voices from the Schola Cantorum, trained by Hugh Ross, and a similar Negro group, the Wen Talbert Choir, will assist the Philharmonic-Symphony Orchestra in the performance of the score. Artur Rodzinski will conduct.

On the same program Paul Robeson, the American baritone, will appear as soloist. He will be heard in "Ballad for Americans," music by Earl Robinson and text by John Latouche. The Schola Cantorum ensemble will appear with Mr. Robeson in this work. Mr. Robeson has sung "Ballad for Americans" on the radio, but not in public concert.

Mr. Robeson will also sing an aria with orchestra and a group of spirituals with piano accompaniment.

"And They Lynched Him on a Tree" is Mr. Still's most recent work. The Negro composer, who is living in Hollywood, has written "Afro-American" Symphony, "Lenox Avenue," a symphony in G minor; a Haitian opera called "Troubled Island"; the symphonic poem, "Dismal Swamp," and the theme music for the New York World's Fair. He received the Guggenheim Fellowship twice and a Rosenwald Fellowship has been awarded to him.

Miss Chapin, who is the wife of United States Solicitor General Francis Biddle, is a poet whose books include "Outside the World" and "Time Has No Shadow." Her "Lament for the Stolen," a dirge for the mother of a child who has been stolen and killed, was set to music by Harl McDonald, and was performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy on Dec. 30 and 31, 1938.

2 Southern Governors Asked To Act To Avert Lynching

NEW YORK, (CNA)—The International Labor Defense, acting to save two Negroes now in jail in State Line, Mississippi, and threatened with lynching, this week sent sharply worded telegram declares:

"Three hundred thousand members and affiliates of the International Labor Defense hold you responsible for the protection of Negro people threatened with lynching on your state line. Evident lawlessnes makes it imperative that your urge Senators from your state to press for passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill."

Senators John Bankhead and Listen Hill of Alabama and Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi also received copies of the telegrams.

The facts of this grim case without names came to light through a letter sent from the Birmingham Communist Party office to the Daily Worker here. According to the letter, white hoodlums several weeks ago started a campaign of terror against the Negro population of State Line. Last week, one of these toughs went berserk and killed a Negro, wounded his father who died shortly afterwards and hurt another unidentified white man. The police, instead of arresting the white roodlum(picked up two innocent Negroes and there are threats of a double lynching among a majority of whites in the community. "It is common talk that the white boys are the starters of the case and trouble," the letter pointed out.

Congressman Reminded of 3 Lynchings

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Congressman Sam Hobbs, Democrat of Alabama, was verbally lambasted here recently by the Workers Defense League because of his statement on the floor of the House of Representatives that there was not a single lynching in the United States during the first six months of 1940.

Causticaly pointing out that there had been at least three lynchings, all white people, David Clendenin, national secretary-treasurer of the league, urged the congressman to put all of his weight behind the passage of the federal anti-lynching legislation, in a bitter letter of denunciations.

CITES GA. KILLINGS

"A congressman like yourself from a section that has become identified in the public mind with Judge Lynch and his methods should not ostrich-like keep insisting that there are no lynchings when the press is full of the revolting retails," Mr. Clendenin wrote. "By doing so, you bring discredit on the section you represent. With the influence at your command, it would be the American way for you to cry out in speech after speech against such lynchings."

Mr. Clendenin reminded Congressman Hobbs about the killing of a young white couple by masked men in Fulton County, Ga., on Mach 2, and the flogging by Klansmen of a barber in East Point, Ga., resulting in his death.

Fear has been expressed that when the bill finally comes up in the Senate, southern senators will again resort to filibuster to prevent action upon it.

MOB VIOLENCE AND THE U. S. GOV'T

Officials of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People point in their report for 1939 "to a decided increase in the activities of lawless mobs against Negroes and a number of cases coming before the N.A.A.C.P. involving the question of confessions extorted by force and violence which were used to convict Negroes charged with crimes."

As an oppressed people we have got to see in this report a single policy of government terror against Negro America. There can be no mistaking this fact. Terror, in order that the government's program of guns instead of bread will not meet with the organized opposition of Negroes. Terror, in order that the poll tax disfranchisement of Negroes will not be challenged by us as a united people. Terror, in order that our economic exploitation will not be stopped by our unity with white labor.

In carrying out this policy of terror the government uses the court directly to convict Negroes. On the other hand it uses the court and the machine of what is called justice indirectly by overlooking or winking at the mob violence. Peace officers know who incited mobs when the peace officers themselves do not incite the mob. In the Brownsville, Tenn., lynching of the N.A.A.C.P. official, Elbert Williams, T. J. Hunter, the sheriff-elect, was identified as a leader of the mob. No action is taken against him, thus open season for Negroes is declared.

State and federal governments are responsible for this condition of things. The blame must be placed at the door of Washington officials and the doors of governors' mansions. Mob violence is their bastard child.

Terror against black men has become a policy of government. Who will deny it?

But there is a rising sentiment of protest from white men and women whose economic and political conditions are little, if any, better than our own. We have got to get closer to these people. We have got to work out joint programs with them. We have got to learn how to fight effectively if we are going to live democratically and in peace.

This is the only conclusion we can draw from the annual report of the N.A.A.C.P. Build the organization.

Find New Lynch Victim In KKK Reign of Terror

Daily Worker 3-10-40 New York, N.Y.

Flogged Body of Isaac Gaston Found in Georgia Woods; Fifth Lynching in Recent Month During Wave of Violence

ATLANTA, March 9.—A horrifying wave of Ku Klux terror in this area was climaxed yesterday by the discovery of the body of Isaac Gaston, 36, who had been "chastised" to death by night-riders.

Gaston's body was found near a pine knoll which has been the scene of many recent floggings by the vigilantes. A four-foot strap and the prints of many feet indicated that he had been flogged unmercifully.

Other victims of KKK terror in recent months in the same neighborhood include two Negro women, a minister and another man.

12 hours when a Negro farm hand, Andrew White, walking across the lands of A. J. Redwine, his employer, made the discovery which led to a determined hunt for members of a supposed band of vigilantes responsible for the beatings.

The victim, Ike Gaston, 36, an East Point barber, had been seen last on Thursday. Late Thursday night his barber shop at Hapeville Junction had been found empty, but with the front door open and the lights on.

It was believed by county police that a band of three or four men had seized him at the shop, forced him into an automobile and taken him to the lonely region.

The actual scene of the beating was a knoll, off the Redwine road, about three miles south of Ben Hill. Under tall pine trees police found underbrush had been trampled into the mud by many feet over an area about 25 feet square. Gaston apparently had stumbled, dazed, to the depression about 75 yards away, where cold, exposure and his desperate wounds took his life.

Whipped Bare.

Acting with deliberation, the party was believed first to have removed Gaston's trousers and ripped away his heavy underwear so that the rain of blows from the heavy whip fell upon his bare flesh. It was theorized that at least two men were required to hold him while one or more mercilessly lashed him from the middle of his back to his knees.

Gaston's trousers had been replaced, as well as his shirt, but the trousers were wrong side out.

So many stripes were upon the body that it was impossible to count them, attaches of the Harry G. Poole undertaking establishment said. Two teeth were missing and there were scratches about the face.

The flogging device, discovered on the knoll by Sergeant Joe Perry and Photographer George Cornett, of the county police, consisted of two principal parts — a heavy wooden handle eight inches long and about the size of the gripping end of a baseball bat, and a strap four feet long, three inches wide and one-half inch thick.

Two Strips Bradded.

About midway of the strap, two leather strips, each three inches long and a half-inch wide, had been bradded lengthwise. The handle had been split partway, to receive the leather, and bound with wire.

Despite the rain and snow of the night, police were certain they had found the tire tracks of the single automobile believed to have brought the band and victim to the scene. The machine was believed to have gone along the Fairburn-Ben Hill road to the Redwine road and along this to the head of a field road about a quarter-mile from the Redwine home.

It was believed a definite link would be established between the beating of Gaston and similar, though not fatal, attacks on an Egan Park preacher, a white man and two Negro women. Evidence in these and other instances was being accumulated last night.

Gaston was well known to East Point police, who frequently had arrested him on charges of drunkenness. Only last Tuesday police again were seeking him on a charge of wife-beating. He last was seen in East Point on Thursday.

Several county policemen recognized the body, and identification officially was established through fingerprints taken by Sergeant Perry. Gaston last had been arrested by the county police in January.

Chief William Tyler, of East Point police, declared that last Saturday Gaston, at work on the city streets in default of paying a fine, obtained leave of absence from Judge Cecil Whitten to visit an ill sister in Atlanta.

He did not return to the street gang, as he promised, but on Tuesday, according to the chief, wrested an engagement ring, a gold cross and a $6 social security benefit check from his wife, beat her, and hurried from the house.

It was found that he had pawned the jewelry and spent the money for liquor, the chief said.

BODY IS STREAKED WITH WELTS FROM INGENIOUS WHIP

Constitution 3-9-40

East Point Victim's Clothes Replaced After Attack; Region Scene of Several Lashings.

By WILLARD COPE.

A desolate and lightly snow-covered stretch of farm bottomland, one of several in the Ben Hill region where at least six floggings have been staged in the past year, yielded up its dead yesterday—a strong man of 160 pounds, six feet tall, who had been beaten barbariously with an ingenious leather and wood device and left to die of cold and exposure.

He had been dead for more than

Floggings Held to Be Violation of Federal Law

Journal Atlanta 3-12-40

(The Associated Press)

Atlanta, March 11.—Judge E. Marvin Underwood in a charge today to the March term of the federal grand jury asserted a series of floggings by "night riders" near suburban East Point violated civil rights and constituted a federal offense.

Solicitor-General John A. Boykin declared every effort would be made to solve the whippings, the latest of which brought death to 32-year-old Isaac Gaston, suburban barber.

A dozen or more floggings are being investigated by authorities.

The floggings were attributed by Coroner Paul Donehoo to "some kind of a vigilante band which seems to have had a pretext of a sort for each of its outbreaks."

Gaston, the coroner said, had been arrested repeatedly on charges of intoxication and had been accused of wife beating. None of the other beatings ended fatally.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., News
July 10, 1940

Georgia Negroes Held In Slaying Of Couple

ATLANTA, July 10—(AP)—Two 29-year-old negroes—one demented—were held today in the slaying of a young white couple after one of the suspects purportedly confessed the killings and implicated the other.

Police Chief J. T. Dailey of DeKalb County said Sherwood Collier, arrested on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon, admitted the fatal beatings of Sarah Rawls, 20, and Benton Ford, 24, near McDonough four months ago. While re-enacting the slayings in adjoining Henry County, Collier accused Robert Scott of complicity, the police chief reported.

Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared recently that Miss Rawls and Ford were "flogged to death by a mob." White's statement was made in taking issue with a Tuskagee Institute report which said the first six months of 1940 were devoid of lynchings.

Dailey said Collier escaped from the Milledgeville State Hospital for the insane shortly before the slayings and it had been established that he was in the vicinity of McDonough about the time of the crime.

Klan Reinstates Unit in Georgia

Constitution

ATLANTA, July 13.—Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott of the Ku Klux Klan said today he had reinstated the Klan's unit at suburban East Point which was suspended last April at the height of an investigation into night-rider terrorism.

Seventeen klansmen were charged with assault and battery as an outgrowth of a probe set off by the fatal whipping of an East Point barber. Five were subsequently tried and each given the legal limit of 18 months in prison and a $1,000 fine, and the remaining 12 await trial.

Colescott said reinstatement of the unit, one of the oldest and largest in the State, was effected at a meeting last night attended by about 350 members.

He said none of the indicted or convicted klansmen was present and that a new slate of officers, "all new, young men with ideals," was elected.

Murder Story Of Man Called True in Parts

Constitution

Police Seek To Tear Down Confession in McDonough Slayings.

Fulton and DeKalb county detectives sought last night to tear down the confession of a 29-year-old Negro who claims he was one of the slayers in the sensational "Lover's Lane" murders near McDonough last March.

Said to be demented, and a former inmate of the State Hospital at Milledgeville, the Negro is booked at Fulton Tower as Sherwood Collier, of Griffin. With him is another Negro, Robert Scott, whom Collier implicated in his admission made Tuesday to Fulton Patrolmen B. B. Adams and C. E. Slate, and J. T. Dailey, chief of the DeKalb police force.

Dailey said last night that, although the Negro's testimony so far has supported evidence known by the police, detectives were attempting to prove first that the confession was not the imagination of an unbalanced mind.

Scott continued to deny any connection with the twin murders which took the lives of Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford, and insisted that Collier was "crazy" and "liable to tell you anything."

However, officials cited instance after instance where Collier has apparently told the truth. First, he admitted taking Ford's watch after the murder and said he dropped it as he fled. The watch was found near the spot soon after the crime.

Describes Weather.

Collier also described correctly the weather conditions on the night of March 2, the route taken by the open truck in which the McDonough couple rode to their death, and how the boy and the girl were dressed—statements which witnesses corroborated.

The arrest came after long and tedious investigation by Sheriff Henry Amis, of Henry county, Dailey and DeKalb Officers E. Griffith and John Jones. Participating with them in the cross-examinations are Slate and Adams, who arrested Collier Sunday night on a charge of lunacy and carrying concealed weapons.

Arousing suspicion by his apparent knowledge of the crime, he was taken Tuesday to McDonough by Dailey and the collaborating police. There he made the confession and brought Scott's name into the probe.

Work All Day.

Dailey said he and the other detectives had worked all day yesterday seeking to tear down the confession, but that each additional statement made by Collier seemed to knit more closely the ring of evidence about him.

Collier, it was said, related several incidents concerning the crime which never had been made public by police and which would not have been known by anyone not directly connected with the murders.

Scott's connection with the crime, if there is any connection, is not known. Several officers have expressed the opinion Scott has no knowledge of the murders and was implicated by Collier as a retaliation measure. Scott, it is said, married a girl formerly associated with Collier.

Two Are Held In McDonough Double Slaying

Constitution

One Confessed Killing Ford, Sarah Rawls,

Dailey Says.,

Constitution

Chief J. T. Dailey said last night that a demented Negro named Sherwood Collier had confessed to the killing of Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford on a lonely road near McDonough last March 2, and in re-enacting the crime at the scene had also accused another Negro named Robert Scott.

Atlanta Ga.

Scott and Collier, both 29, and both giving their addresses as Griffin, were held at Fulton tower for further investigation last night.

Collier, Chief Dailey said, confessed the crime to Fulton County Officers C. E. Slate and B. B. Adams while held in jail following his arrest near Ben Hill Sunday on charges of lunacy and carrying concealed weapons.

Taken to the scene of the crime by Dailey, Johnny Jones, of the DeKalb force, and the Fulton officers, the Negro, Daily said, described in detail how the powerful young Ford was first battered to death with a tire tool, and how his girl companion was slain when she screamed.

Constitution

"He said that he and the Negro named Scott were parked beside the road fixing a tire on their car when the pickup truck in which Miss Rawls and Ford were riding turned down the side road near by. He showed us the approximate spot where he said he and Scott were parked, Daily reported.

"He said he and Scott then followed the couple, coming upon them by a little by-path through the bushes, off the road the truck had taken. He showed us this path, a narrow trail overgrown with bushes.

Story Varies.

"Scott he claimed, struck Benton Ford on the head with a tire tool. His story varies here somewhat, for he once said Scott used a tire tool, and then said he used a jack handle.

"He said that Miss Rawls started screaming when the attack on Ford was made, and that he and Scott both struck her until she was quiet. Then, he said, Scott took $20 out of Benton Ford's pockets, and he took Ford's watch. He claims that both of them then ran back toward their car, and that he lost the watch while running. This ties in with facts the police already knew, for the watch was found about 100 feet away from where the bodies were lying.

"He said they drove on off and threw the weapon in 'the river.'

Chief Dailey said that there had been no chance yet to attempt to find the spot where the weapon was thrown away.

Roused Suspicion.

Collier, Dailey said, aroused suspicion when, after his arrest on the lunacy and gun charge, he talked continuously in jail about the area in which the crime was committed.

Atlanta Ga.

Believing he might know something about the case, officers drove him down the highway, Dailey said, and when he passed the spot he is reported to have said "that's the place where them two people were killed." He then talked about the case, and proved so familiar with it the police began to question him closely.

The negro, according to Fulton police, was released from the state hospital for the insane at Milledgeville shortly before the crime was committed.

Scott, the companion implicated in the purported confession, was arrested at Griffin yesterday afternoon. At Fulton Tower last night he denied any knowledge of the crime.

East Point Klan Is Reinstated By Colescott

Constitution

Former Members Charged With Flogging Not Present.

Atlanta Ga.

The East Point unit of the Ku Klux Klan, suspended last April when the flogging probe was at its height, was reinstated Friday night by Imperial Wizard James A. Colescott, national head of the order.

Some 350 of the unit's membership attended the meeting and about 100 others were not admitted because they were behind in their dues, Colescott said.

He said that none of the alleged floggers who included most of the old officers of the unit, were present.

New Officers.

"A new slate of officers was elected," said the wizard, and added that the Klan's first official charter, bearing the signature of the first imperial wizard, William Joseph Simmons, was restored.

The charter of the unit was removed by Colescott on the night of April 18 when he staged a one-man raid on the lodge rooms in East Point, and smashed locks and doors to gain admittance.

At that time he also confiscated the seal and some regalia, which yesterday he said had been returned to the unit.

Urged By Members.

Colescott said he decided to restore the charter after he had been approached by members of the klan.

"The East Point Klan contains thousands of decent, law-abiding citizens," he said. "The members who have been convicted on terrorism charges are a disgrace to the Klan and the community in which they live. True Klansmen welcome their punishment and we are all waiting anxiously to see punishment, if it is deserved, meted out to the others involved in the flogging outrages."

Flog Witnesses Being Quizzed In a 'Hideaway'

SEP 22 1940

The Constitution

Probe Into Ike Gaston Death Continues in Secret Rendezvous.

Atlanta Ga.

Witnesses from whose testimony the state is attempting to weave a circumstantial web of evidence around the floggers of Ike Gaston, East Point barber, are being questioned nightly in a secret rendezvous away from the courthouse, it was learned yesterday.

Men, women and even children are being called to the "hideaway" by officers who seek to conceal their identity.

Daniel Duke, assistant solicitor general, and Captain Frank Jordan, J. W. Gilbert and John Carter, of the county police, have revived the investigation into the fatal flogging of Gaston.

Gaston's body, beaten with a heavy leather strap, was discovered March 8 in a snow-covered field off Redwine road. The discovery led to the investigation which brought 17 indictments against members of the East Point Ku Klux Klan on charges of flogging numerous citizens. Half a dozen of the floggers have been convicted.

Duke refused to say what progress is being made in the probe now.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

ILLINOIS

6588

Mobs Wreck Cars Of Sect Members

Advertiser
6/19/40

By Associated Press

LITCHFIELD, ILL., June 16.—Members of a religious sect, who had been distributing literature bearing the name of Jehovah's Witnesses, were attacked and their automobiles were wrecked by groups of Litchfield residents in a series of disturbances.

The attacks were reported to have been made because of the refusal of the sect members to salute the American flag. One Litchfield resident was said to have beaten a man until he kissed a flag. About 65 members of the sect were taken to the small city jail, where some of them were overcome by the heat and the excitement. Several physicians were summoned.

Chief of Police George Taylor said the arrests were made "by citizens of Litchfield with police protection."

A number of fights occurred as groups of Litchfield residents sought out of the sect members and demanded that they salute the flag. Their automobiles were taken from them.

Sixteen cars were driven to a lot, where they were overturned and battered. Three others were reported driven into an old reservoir at Walton Park, a mile south of Litchfield.

State highway police and Sheriff Leo Gilliland of Hillsboro arrived to take charge of the situation.

standing near me who called out to the mob, 'We're all human. They're human. Let's think this matter over.' And that statement stayed the mob's hands until deputies could get there." Colombos, 50, said it was the "scariest day of my life."

State police, called from Springfield, arrived and removed the "witnesses" to Hillsboro, county seat of Montgomery County, where they were fingerprinted and permitted to return to St. Louis. The affray in Litchfield began when cult members began to distribute leaflets, containing the statement: "We don't salute the American flag or any other flag." Charges that schools were under the influence of the "Roman Catholic hierarchy" also were contained in the pamphlets.

At their last previous visit to Litchfield on June 1, the "witnesses" were ordered out and warned not to return. On Sunday their presence spread rapidly, and the town's men orderly left church to disperse them.

Litchfield, although near a coal mining region, is not a mining town. It is an agricultural and industrial community, with 7,000 population, and with factories of the Brown Shoe company and the American Radiator company.

PREVENTS LYNCHING OF MEMBER

Courier

LITCHFIELD, Ill., June 17 — [illegible] five members of [illegible] Witnesses," who arrived here last Sunday to spread their teachings, at least one was prevented from being lynched when infuriated townspeople attacked them, by a Negro, resident of Litchfield, who pleaded for them with mercy. This was revealed by Frank Colombos, a St. Louis barber and member of the cult for fifteen years. Colombos, who arrived in Litchfield with representatives of the cult, said:

"The mob had beaten some of the men and pushed the women when suddenly there were cries of 'lynch them.' I thought if it was God's will that we would be lynched, we couldn't do anything about it. But there was a Negro

NEGRO CHECKS LYNCHING OF WHITE CULTIST

Defender

Story Of The Litchfield Outrage Is Told By Cult Member

6/29/40

Chicago Bee

LITCHFIELD, Ill.—(ANP)—Of the 65 members of "Jehovah's Witnesses" who arrived here last Sunday to spread their teachings, at least one was prevented from being lynched, when infuriated townspeople attacked them, by a Negro, resident of Litchfield, who pleaded for them.

This was revealed by Frank Colombos, a St. Louis' barber and member of the cult for 15 years. Colombus, who arrived in Litchfield with representatives of the cult said:

"The mob had beaten some of the men and pushed the women when suddenly there were cries of 'lynch them.' I thought if it was God's will that we be lynched, we couldn't do anything about it. But there was a Negro standing near me who called out to the mob, "We're all human. They're human. Let's think this matter over." And that statement stayed the mob's hands until deputies could get there. Colombos, 50,

Eye-Witness Describes Lynch Mob Attack on Communists in Illinois

By Seymour Robinson
(Special to the Daily Worker)

ROCKFORD, Ill., June 28.—I saw vigilante violence here yesterday when a lynch-crazed mob of men wearing Legion buttons in their lapels slugged and threatened to hang a group of top Communist Party election campaign workers before the Winnebago County Courthouse.

I saw Alfred Wagenknecht, candidate of the Illinois Communist Party for Congressman-at-large, slugged from behind by a man wearing an American Legion button in his lapel, as he was being held by Police Captain Falke Bengston under the pretext of being taken "into protectve custody."

The slugging of Wagenknecht came on the heels of his protest and demand to Bengston for the arrest of a Legionnaire who had just assaulted Matt Shalomskas, candidate of the Party for University of Illinois Trustee. Another leader of the group of election workers, all of whom were from Chicago, was Martha Novak, candidate of the Party also for University of Illinois Trustee.

DEPUTIES LOOK ON

All the men in the group including myself, were slugged by the mob as police and sheriff's deputies looked on. Ruth Harris, one of the women election workers, was severely beaten on the head when she refused to allow a legionnaire to grab a pile of leaflets out of her hands.

The whole incident, occurring in the main business section of this city of 85,000, had all the appearance of a put-up job between local American Legion officials and the town and county officials.

Not a single member of the mob who assaulted the election workers was arrested.

In every case, a slugging took place when Capt. Bengston put in an appearance in the vicinity of an election worker. Only after the worker was slugged, as he looked on, was he taken into "protective custody."

The police captain appeared to be the only active law enforcer on the scene, although the city and county administration officials had been notified several days previous that election workers were coming to town.

1,000 GATHER

More than 1,000 people gathered around the courthouse, many of whom gave expression of sympathy to the election workers as they were set upon.

But the mob proceeded with a precision which indicated a completely prearranged plan.

Immediately, Wagenknecht, spokesman for the group, together with Robert Wirtz of the International Labor Defense and Gilbert Lang of the Workers Alliance, representing a group of observers, demanded of the Sheriff and Mayor that the election workers be allowed to go back before the courthouse to distribute leaflets and solicit signatures with adequate police protection.

Both Bell and the police captain refused adequate protection on the pretext that they did not have sufficient forces.

The spokesman for the election workers then demanded that the sheriff call for state police to assist him. This, the sheriff, upon three separate demands, refused to do.

In the interval, State's Attorney Robert Nash put in his appearance and quoted the law on the case. The election workers, he said, had the right, under the law, to distribute leaflets and solicit signatures, with full protection from the law.

Here again both Bell and Bengston declared that they lacked "adequate forces."

Following this, at 7:30 P. M., four hours after the assault, the group was escorted out of town by the sheriff and his assistants.

On Friday evening, the night before, a broadcast had been made over Rockford's Radio Station WROK by Mr. Wagenknecht in which, among other things, he said:

"Unless the rights of all are respected, the rights of none are secure. If illegal acts and incitement to violence are permitted against the Communist Party, then a precedent has been set for mob rule against anyone or any organization having opinions which any mob at any time might be against. Then the field of patient discussion and persuasion, of free speech, free press and free assemblage, of constitutional government, of law and order would be replaced by physical attacks by mobs motivated by prejudices. And no true American wants this to happen."

UPHOLD RIGHTS

He concluded his address by declaring:

"You will uphold the Bill of Rights as true Americans should, be insistent that the Communist Party is privileged, under the laws of the state, to collect signatures so that its candidates may appear upon the ballot, and participate in the elections. There is no other road a true American can travel if he desires to remain true to the American people, their democratic traditions, their desire to make America the best country in which to live."

6589

LYNCHING - 1940
SIDELIGHTS

LOUISIANA

Unearth Evidence In La. Lynching

NOV 2 1940

NEW ORLEANS—The alleged lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19-year-old Morganza youth between Morganza and New Roads earlier this year was brought to the spotlight again this week when new evidence was uncovered.

When Booster's body was found mutilated on the highway last spring, and the coroner's report indicated that he had been run over by an automobile or truck, connecting incidents leading up to the tragedy cast a possibility that he had met his death by the hands of an individual or mob.

About a month prior to the tragedy, Williams had reportedly been ordered out of Morganza by his former employer, Lawrence Kennison, a white beer-parlor operator, who had accused Booster of telling his wife of an affair the Kennison man had with a Negro girl, Eula Willis, who was employed at his tavern as waitress.

Attorney-General Eugene Stanley was informed of the matter and the allegation that he had met death through violence, and promised a thorough investigation. According to the data and documents in the hands of the state department of justice, the investigation was carried through in routine form and circumstantially disproved allegations that Booster was lynched or murdered.

Louisiana Adds One to Lynch Toll

NOV 30 1940

HAMMOND, La.—Eddie Garrett, one of two suspects in the robbery-killing of a white farmer was lynched in a wooded area near here on Saturday evening.

His body, riddled with buckshot, was "found" on Sunday and Officer Dick Cutter, who headed a posse on a hunt the day before, admitted having fired at Garrett near the spot where he died.

Cutter said Garrett escaped from him following his arrest earlier in the day, after a $100 bill and $2,500 in postal savings bonds were allegedly found in a stove at a shack which he and the other suspect occupied.

Slaying of Louisianan Termed 8th Lynching

DEC 7 1940

NEW YORK—Characterizing the death of Eddie Garrett at the hands of an officer—led Hammond, Louisiana mob of whites, November 24, as "the eighth lynching for 1940," the NAACP has announced that it was launching an investigation to determine the facts in the case.

According to meager reports from the Associated Press, Garrett was accused of killing a white farmer, recluse in the Louisiana town, in an attempt at robbery. Garrett is alleged to have escaped from Dick Curtrer, a police officer, who shot him after forming a posse to give chase.

being sought.

Both were accused in the fatal beating of Steven Bench, 54-year-old Hungarian bachelor, who lived alone on a strawberry farm in nearby Albany. Bench was found dying last Saturday night by Joe Szari, another white man.

Although authorities claimed that Bench had $10,000 in cash in his home on the night of the fatal attack, members of the lynch mob found only $2 on the victim after he had been riddled with buckshot.

In some areas, it was whispered that Bench might have been robbed by some of "his white friends," but police made no effort to check on the report, colored residents said.

The only white man to publicly admit that he took part in the lynching was S. A. Sweeney, who claimed that he had taken the $2 and a small knife from Garrett's pockets. Whether the New Orleans bureau of the FBI would start an investigation of the lynching could not be ascertained.

Mob Riddles Man In Lynching Spree

Congressmen Toy With Lynching Bill As 500 Whites Kill Negro in Louisiana

NOV 30 1940

WASHINGTON—Scant reaction was observed on capitol hill here this week over the brutal slaying of a Negro in Louisiana by a mob of 500 white citizens as congressmen sought to effect another noble gesture on the anti-lynching bill by proposisg to tie it to the tail of the Walter-Logan measure, which faces almost certain veto once it has been placed on the President's desk.

The Walter-Logan bill, which is now being gone over in the House of Representatives, if okayed by the chief executive, would permit direct appeals to the courts by litigants from decision of the National Labor Relations Board and other governmental agencies with quasi-judicial functions. Leaders in Congress have expressed the belief that President Roosevelt will veto the measure. However, efforts are being made to attach the anti-lynching bill to the Walter-Logan Bill as a rider.

(Special To Amsterdam News)

HAMMOND, La.—Officials of this thriving little farm town, which is only a few miles from New Orleans, helped to further shame America this week by brazenly admitting that a mob of more than 500 whites had lynched Edward Garrett, a well known resident who was suspected in the slaying of a wealthy white recluse.

His body perforated with buckshot, Garrett's lifeless form was discovered in a rain-drenched wooded section near here Sunday while hundreds of people were on their way to church.

Coroner L. L. Ricks said that he had been dead for several hours. Dick Cutrer, a Hammond cop, claimed that he had fired upon Garrett in an apparent attempt to "cover up" the lynching, but reporters learned otherwise.

From other white residents not in sympathy with the mob violence, it was said that several hundred white farm-hands helped in the lynching.

It was also said that another colored resident believed to be implicated with Garrett, was

Man Accused Of Three Crimes Believed Killed By La. Mob

Find Body Punctured With Lead

Daily Worker Atlanta, Ga.

NOV 30 1940

By LEON LEWIS

HAMMOND, La.— (GP)— The finding of the buckshot-riddled body of Eddy Garrett, 21-year-old Negro accused of robbing and brutally murdering an aged strawberry farmer, and a 60-year-old white woman, ended the sheriff-led posse hunt for Garrett, but the search for his alleged accomplice is being continued by authorities.

Shortly after a discovery of the body of an aged strawberry farmer by his landlord on last Saturday with his head lying in a pool of blood, Sheriff Cutler of Tangipahoa Parish organized a posse of citizens and blood hounds to capture Garrett who had been accused of a similar robbery and slaying of the 60-year-old white woman several weeks before.

Authorities found in the deserted shack of the accused pair, which is only a block from the Bench residence, postal certificates and money amounting to some thousands of dollars, said to be a portion of the large savings of the slain man.

Officers were informed that Garrett and his partner were observed in Hammond making purchases in the store and presenting twenty and fifty dollar bills as payments. According to Cutler he ran across them making purchases at one store, and the pair fled from the store upon attempted questioning, dropping a bundle that contained clothing and jewelry. The jewelry was identified to be that of the aged woman who was killed several weeks ago, and whose body was found in her barn with her skull crushed.

According to the officer, he again sighted Garrett on the edge of a wooded sector on Sunday evening, and fired one pistol shot with Garrett apparently making his escape. On Monday, Garrett's body was found approximately 100 feet from the spot where he was seen by Sheriff Cutler, lifeless and riddled with buckshots.

District Attorney, Bolivar Kemp, stated that Garrett is undoubtedly guilty of a similar robbery-murder that occurred in this section last spring, and that the jewelry taken in this case was found upon his person. His accomplice is still being sought, and police authorities in fourteen states have been given descriptions and notified to arrest him upon sight.

No efforts are being made to ascertain how and by whose hands Garrett was slain.

Garrett is alleged to have escaped from Dick Curtrer, a police officer, who shot him after forming a posse to give chase.

Commenting on the case, Roy Wilkins, assistant NAACP secretary said:

"A revealing commentary on the manner in which our lawmakers seek to do what they call protecting the democratic process, is seen in the handling of the Walter-Logan Bill. Here is a bill being pushed by certain senators in order to further curtail the effectiveness of semi-official government agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board with a view to protecting purely property rights, while the Senate does absolutely nothing about passing the Anti-lynching bill, a piece of legislation designed to protect human rights."

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Called 8th Lynching of 1940

Daily Worker Atlanta, Ga.

NAACP Is Seeking Facts In the Case

DEC 3 1940

NEW YORK — (SNS) — Characterizing the death of Eddie Garrett at the hands of an officer-led Hammond Louisiana mob of whites, November 24, as "the eighth lynching for 1940," the N.A.A.C.P. announced Monday that it was launching an investigation to determine the facts in the case.

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SLAYING OF LOUISIANAN 8TH LYNCHING

Daily Worker Atlanta, Ga.

N. A. A. C. P. to Investigate Killing of Eddie Garrett by Officer

DEC 6 1940

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

LOUISIANA

6590

Mutilated Body Found On Highway

Officials Say Death Resulted from Auto Accident—Foul Play Hinted.

MORGANZA, La., May 30.—Naked, his hands and body badly lacerated and mutilated and with stab wounds in his neck and shoulders, the body of 21-year-old Horace Williams was found dead on a highway three miles out of this city last Thursday morning.

From reliable sources, it was said Williams was last seen alive in a night club at New Roads, La.

Relatives of the dead man state that three weeks ago he was run out of the city by a local white merchant, who claimed Williams was interfering with his affairs. Williams is said to have then gone to Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

Returning to this city, he was found dead on the highway before he reached here.

The vicinity where he was found bore evidence of a bitter struggle. His face apparently had been mashed in with a heavy, blunt instrument. A blood-stained rock was found nearby.

According to officials, death resulted from an automobile accident, but a relative who visited the coroner's office was told that the written report of the inquest could not be found, it was said.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT FINISHED; BELIEVE DEATH CAUSED BY AUTO ACCIDENT

BATON ROUGE, La.—(ANP)—The promised investigation into the death of "Booster" Williams early in June has been completed by the office of Attorney General Eugene Stanley and the 65-page report including statements of citizens and officers "disproved" that the youngster had been lynched as afore suspected.

Following the finding of Williams' mutilated body on Highway 30 above Morganza by a white motorist reports a bit of suspicion that the lad had met his death by foul means from a former white employer who had reportedly dared "Booster" to return to his home in New Roads. Circumstantial evidence of this was revealed from a statement by his sister in New Orleans a few weeks prior and had told her that his employer had chased him away from New Roads because he had suspected him of revealing to his wife an affair between the employer and a Negro girl.

Other evidence that pointed to a possible lynching was reported statements of undertakers that bruises on "Booster's" body made by an automobile, which had run over him were made post-mortem.

In a letter to Leon Lewis of the Associated Negro Press, Attorney-General Stanley promised a thorough investigation. James B. LaFourche, public relations director of the Southern Regional conference of the N.A.A.C.P., and Lewis directed an unofficial investigation to supplement that of the state department so as to determine whether or not Louisiana would be discredited with a lynching.

The state department's first report from investigation revealed that if Williams had met death by human hands it was murder and not a lynching since not more than one person could have taken part in the probable slaying and that this person was not an officer of the law.

The coroner's report stated that Booster died from shock and hemorrhage following internal injuries. Further explanation revealed that internal injuries were caused from an automobile accident, as was first reported. Possible assault or murder was also disproven through the investigation.

BUT MUTILATED BODY IS STILL 'UNEXPLAINED'

Officials Ignored Weighty Importance Of Clews Say Town-Folks

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ROAD SLAYING NOT LYNCHING

Attorney General's Report White-Washes Alleged Louisiana Death

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Mob Beats Man; Led By Sheriff

SEP 14 1940

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—Led by Sheriff Ted Martin, two truckloads of hoodlums were reported last week to have snatched James Smith from the car of his New Orleans attorney and hustled him off to a nearby wooded sector where they beat him with trace chains and left him to die.

Smith, a New Orleans longshoreman, was arrested after an incident in which his automobile was alleged to have scared a mule, causing the animal to jump upon [illegible] and balk its pack. Smith was released for reckless driving. Whereupon he immediately filed damage suit through his attorney, Charles D. Mundy.

It was at the conclusion of the trial at St. Francisville that Smith was taken from the automobile of his attorney and beaten.

Louisiana Lynch Terror Growing Against Unionists

Police Arrest Two Men, One an Editor, While on Their Way to Warn Reverend of Plot By Lynch Mob

(Special to the Daily Worker)

NEW ORLEANS, La., Aug. 25.—The arrest and threat of lynching Clinton Clark, Negro organizer of the Farmers Union in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, has struck off the sparks of a wave of terror and violence now spreading with great ferocity throughout the South against Negro farmers and sharecroppers.

Clark and Ernest Wright, editor of the New Orleans Sentinel, were both arrested July 28 when on their way to Rev. Bridges' Church to warn members of the danger of being attacked by a mob of landlords and big planters. A general meeting of all farmers in the Parish scheduled for July 27 at the Masonic Temple, had to be called off because the proprietor, Scott Lewis, had been ordered by the planters not to let the meeting go through.

Five other visiting speakers from New Orleans, Willie Dorsey, Sedonia Terrel, Frank Smith, Charles Day and Joseph Jones, all officials of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (CIO), were rounded up by the authorities when they arrived at the Church.

800 ATTEND

More than 800 farmers who had come from at least 20 active Locals of the union on mules, horses, in wagons and jalopies, were driven away from the meeting, and police told the Rev. Bridges that if he wanted to hold church in the Parish he had better not let the meeting go through.

For three days Clark and the other arrested men were subjected to constant questioning about "unionism," "race problems," and a fifth column" activities. White planters throughout the parish were brought into the jail where police attendants pointed out to them "the Negro who's been stirring up all this trouble."

It was learned later that District Attorney Hughes had secured several affidavits alleging that Clark had received "money under false pretenses." Attorney Moisee Stoeg, retained by the union to represent Clark, has sought unsuccessfully to obtain detail information as to the nature of the charge and his request for bail has likewise been ignored.

The landlords are so enraged at efforts of the farmers to organize that after the intervention of a friend, on behalf of Clark, State Attorney Eugene Stanley at Baton Rouge, telephoned immediately to District Attorney Hughes and said "No! No lynching! We got to be careful. The state is on the spot. We can't afford that kind of thing with the federal government like it is. Remember now, no lynching!"

In the meantime, before court reconvenes on Oct. 7, the District Attorney, deputy sheriffs, planters, and merchants, are scouring the Parish threatening members of the union, searching their homes looking for names of union organizers and dues records in the hope of being able to fish up enough evidence to railroad Clark to a long prison sentence.

In order to break up the union, local authorities are spreading the rumor that Miss Margery Dallet, acting secretary of the Farmers Union, and Harry Koger, UCAPAWA organizer, both white, are stirring up trouble among the Negroes.

The matter has been brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but so far, it has not done anything to halt the wholesale violation of civil liberties here.

A Clinton Clark Defense Fund has been initiated by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Negro Youth Congress, the Urban League, the Industrial Union Council, and the Louisiana League for the Preservation of Constitutional Rights.

Clark is one of the outstanding Negro labor leaders in the South. His sound judgment and organizing ability is admired and respected by all. That is why the landlords want to get rid of him. To prevent them from doing this and destroying the Farmers Union, funds are urgently needed to prepare his defense. Contributions may be sent to the Clinton Clark Defense Fund, office of the NAACP, 2107 Dryades St., New Orleans, La.

ESCORTED OUT OF STATE: FEAR MOB VIOLENCE

Protest Groups Plan Vigorous Fight For Civil Liberties

By RICHARD H. THOMAS

NEW ORLEANS—As various protest groups organized their forces last week to fight for the freedom of Clinton Clark, farmers union organizer who was jailed in Natchitoches, La., August 31, he was released and escorted out of the state. However, their drive for civil liberties will continue.

In relating the story of his persecution Clark told newspapermen here this week that Mrs. Beatrice Breda, Natchitoches school teacher, agitated and caused his arrest.

Last Monday, August 19, W. D. Black, deputy sheriff came to Clark's cell accompanied by the jailed man's landlady, Mrs. Bertha Lee Hargo. Black asked Clark if he would get out of the state if they let him out. Replying in the affirmative, the sheriff told Clark that they had filled his car with gasoline and fixed his tires.

He also told him that he would accompany him so that nobody would hurt him. Arriving here from St. Augustine, Texas where the tank of gas gave out Clark told how Prof. J. W. Garret of that city cared for him and lent him money to contact the New Orleans office.

Causes Arrest

According to Clark, three days before the scheduled meeting of farmers at the school he was called to the office of the principal, Gaddis C. Hall. Upon arrival the principal and the principal-emeritus, J. W. Thomas, awaited him, and began to inquire into the nature of the meeting. Later Mrs. Beatrice Breda came in and immediately began to lambast Clark's efforts to secure a meeting place.

Clark explained that because he wanted to help Race farmers better their living conditions in the parish, and because the landlords were responsible for the plight of the people, they were fighting his organization. Mrs. Breda insisted that the meeting would not go on. She told Clark, "I can do a lot of good and I can do you a lot of harm."

Matters pertaining to the use of the school for public meetings, and the scheduled appearance of Willis Dorsey, New Orleans C.I.O. organizer were discussed.

Clark claims that the identical questions and accusations made by Mrs. Breda were made by the district attorney.

Release Negro Farm Leader in Louisiana

SEP 2 2 1940

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The attempted lynch frame-up of Clinton Clark, Negro organizer of the Louisiana Farmers' Union, has been thwarted, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties announced here this week.

Clark, who was threatened with lynching after his arrest in Natchitoches Parish July 27, has been released and given safe conduct across th border to Texas.

Ten charges were placed against him alleging that he had collected funs for the union under false pretense. He was an accredited officer of the union and empowered so collect dews for the union. Officials of the union declared that Clark's record was clear and that thereal reason for his arrest was thet he had been successful in organizing the f mproverished farmers of Natchiteches Parish.

PROTEST TO JUSTICE DEPT.

Savannah Journal

Answering an appeal from the Louisana Farmers Union for aid, stitutional Liberties sent two delegates to the Civil Liberties unit of the Department of Justice, together with representantves of the National Negro Congres and the National Federation for Con the Southern Negro Youth Congress. The delegation requested that the department takes steps to secure Clerks release and to tss- ure him safe conduct out of Na- he federation was informed the next day of a report from the Att- that Clark had been released on orney General,s office in Louisana personal bond and taken safely to Texas.

Savannah, Ga.

Upon hearing of Clark,s release the Federation declered that its success in this case is new evidence of the value of an orgondzation which can coordinate the activities of farm,curch labor, racial, fraternal and civic groups in defense of civil liberties in the United States

'Bamans Fear Lynching As Laborer Disappears

SEP 1 9 1940

MINDEN, La. — Colored residents in this section are concerned over the fate of R. L. Jones, 24-year-old laborer in the paper mill at Springhill, La., near here, whose disappearance is whispered about as a lynching.

According to available information, Jones was in bed with his brother and cousin on the night of Wednesday, Aug. 28, when he was awakened by the sheriff and two other white men who said they wanted to talk with him. Jones was carried away by the trio and hasn't been seen since then.

Public Justice

When Jones failed to return, his relatives contacted the sheriff who named three towns where the young man might be. They investigated and found nothing of him.

Baltimore, Md.

The fear has been expressed that Jones has been made a victim of the new silent lynching technique now prevalent in the South.

——A Colored Judge——

The quickest way to lose a friend
is to loan him money;
This brings that friendship to an end
That was as sweet as honey.

Lynching Evidence Seen in La., Death

NOV 2 1940

NEW ORLEANS. — (ANP) — The alleged lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19-year-old Morganza youth, between Morganza and New Roads, early this year was brought to the spotlight again this week, when new evidence supporting the lynching theory was unearthed.

Pittsburgh Courier

About a month prior to William's death it is alleged that he had been ordered to leave Morganza by the white owner of a beer-garden where he worked. "Booster" allegedly told his employer's wife of an affair he had with a colored waitress.

Baltimore, Md.

New facts, supposedly pointing to indication that Williams was killed by a mob, presumably at the instigation of someone who wanted him out of the way, have been unearthed by the New Orleans Anti-Crime League and will be sent to Attorney-General Eugene Stanley asking that the case be reopened.

N.A.A.C.P. Investigates La. Lynching

Chicago Defender

DEC 7 1940

NEW YORK.—Characterizing the death of Eddie Garrett at the hands of an officer-led Hammond, Louisiana mob of whites, November 24, as "the eighth lynching for 1940," the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced Friday that it was launching an investigation to determine the facts in the case.

According to meagre reports from the press, Garrett was accused of killing a white farmer, recluse in the Louisiana town, in an attempt at robbery. Garrett is alleged to have escaped from Dick Curtrer, a police officer, who shot him after forming a posse to give chase.

Commenting on the case, Rev. Wilkins, assistant N.A.A.C.P. secretary said:

"A revealing commentary on the manner in which our lawmakers seek to do what they call protecting the democratic process, is seen in the handling of the Walter-Logan bill.

"Here is a bill being pushed by certain senators in order to further curtail the effectiveness of semi-official government agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board with a view to protecting purely property rights, while the Senate does absolutely nothing about passing the Anti-lynching bill, a piece of legislation designed to protect human rights."

8th Lynching in '40

DEC 6 1940

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Northwest

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Pittsburgh Courier

Commenting on the case, Roy Wilkins, assistant NAACP secretary said:

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Killing Of La. Man Called 8th Lynching Of 1940 By NAACP

New York Age

New York Post

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LA. LYNCHERS BEAT LAW TO BANDIT SLAYER

Chicago Defender

DEC 8 1940

By LEON LEWIS
(Graphic Press)

HAMMOND, La., Dec. 5—The finding of the buckshot, riddled body of Eddie Garrett, 21-year-old Negro accused of robbing and brutally murdering an aged strawberry farmer, and a 60-year-old white woman, ended the sheriff-led posse hunt for Garrett, but the search for his alleged accomplice is being continued by authorities.

Shortly after a discovery of the body of an aged strawberry farmer by his landlord on last Saturday with his head lying in a pool of blood, Sheriff Cutier of Tangipahoa Parish organized a posse of citizens and blood hounds to capture Garrett who had been accused of a similar roberby and slaying of a 60-year old white woman several weeks before.

Find Slain Man's Money

Authorities found in the deserted shack of the accused pair, which is only a block from the Bench residence, postal certificates and money amounting to some thousands of dollars, said to be a portion of the large savings of the slain man. Officers were informed that Garrett and his partner were observed in Hammond making purchases in the stores and presenting twenty and fifty dollar bills as payments.

According to Cutier he ran across them making purchases at one store, and the pair fled from the store upon attempted question-

..., dropping a bundle that contained clothing and jewelry. The jewelry was identified to be that of the aged woman who was killed several weeks ago, and whose body was found in her barn with her skull crushed.

Fired on, Escaped

According to the officer, he again sighted Garrett on the edge of a wooded sector on Sunday evening, fired one pistol shot with Garrett apparently making his escape. On Monday Garrett's body was found approximately 100 feet from the spot where he was seen by Sheriff Cutier, lifeless and riddled with buckshot.

District Attorney Bolivar Kemp stated that Garrett is undoubetdly guilty of a similar robbery-murder that occurred in this section last spring, and that the jewelry taken in this case was found upon his person. His accomplice is still being sought, and police authorities in fourteen states have been given descriptions and notified to arrest him on sight. How or by whom Garrett was slain is not known.

6592

LYNCHINGS - 1940
SIDELIGHTS

LOUISIANA

But Lynchings Go On

DEC 10 1940

Daily Worker

Although the Roosevelt Administration has shelved the anti-lynch bill, lynchings have not been shelved.

The eighth lynching of 1940 took place down in Louisiana last week. A Negro worker, Eddie Garrett, was shot down in cold blood by police in Hammond, La., after being charged with "killing a white farmer."

Sen. Barkley, Roosevelt's man Friday, announced a few weeks ago that the anti-lynch bill had to be laid aside because of the "defense" program. But since that time, the Senate has passed the anti-labor Walter-Logan bill, the Sumners anti-labor bill disguised as an "anti-sabotage" measure; and Congress is now bent upon passing all the reactionary legislation which it dared not enact before the elections.

New York N.Y.

The Roosevelt Administration and its Republican abettors has thus shown the utmost contempt for the struggles of the Negro people. The hypocritical "defense" program is being used to give the Negro's life and death demands a run-around.

But this run-around should not be accepted. The Negro people, labor and white Americans, should insist upon the passage of the anti-lynch bill at this session of Congress. It is the war-mongering "defense" legislation which should be shelved in favor of measures to protect the lives and democratic rights of Negro and white Americans.

Lynching Of Louisiana 8th, NAACP Charges

Chicago Bee

DEC 15 1940

NEW YORK, Dec. 5—Characterizing the death of Eddie Garrett at the hands of an officer-led Hammond, La. mob of whites, November 24, as "the eighth lynching of 1940," the N. A. A. C. P. announced today that it was launching an investigation to determine the facts in the case.

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N.A.A.C.P. Exposes Louisiana Lynch Victim In Report

Pittsburgh Courier

DEC 7 1940

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Louisiana Lynch Mob Roams Swamps Searching for Second Suspect as Victim

Amsterdam News

New York N.Y.

DEC 7 1940

(Special to Amsterdam News)

HAMMOND, La.—Public sentiment against the brutal lynching of Edward Garrett was aroused to "fever-pitch" this week as a mob of whites continued their hunt for another man who was identified as James Johnson, 23.

Several members of the mob reported that the intended lynch victim had been sighted in a nearby swamp. Others said several shots had been fired at him.

Meanwhile, the New Orleans Press Club, which is headed by the militant Amos Black, protested the violence and asked District Attorney Boliver Kemp to start an immediate investigation.

Since last Saturday night when Garrett and Johnson were accused of clubbing a wealthy white recluse to death and robbing him of $10,000—the mob has been on "the hell-bent trail."

Over the week-end, a posse beat the woods north of here for three days and nights, looking for Johnson. It was reported from some sources that a group of colored men had formed a mob to protect young Johnson from the lynchers, in the event that he is captured alive.

The New Orleans unit of the FBI remained silent, however, about the possible violence even though they have been approached by many prominent citizens from both races to "step in and stop what might turn out to be a general race riot."

La. Boy Thought Lynched by Mob

BATON ROUGE, La.—(ANP)—Efforts are being made here to have the State Department investigate the suspected lynching of Booster Williams, 19, about thirty-five miles north of Baton Rouge on Highway No. 30.

Williams's mutilated body was found Wednesday morning by a white motorist approximately one mile above Morganza.

His nude body was beaten and battered; his jaw broken; his throat cut and portions of his body seemed to have been hacked with a crudely sharpened instrument. Undertakers in New Roads state that his organs had been removed.

Had Visited Sister

Seven hours before, Williams had visited his sister at New Roads, where last year a 12-year-old boy bearing the same surname was given life for murdering a white boy.

The motorist said the boy was not dead at the time he was found but by the time his father arrived on the scene, one hour later, the butchered youth had succumbed. Police and coroner attempted to convince them that he had been run over by an automobile.

Miss Mae Etta Williams, his sister living in New Orleans, with whom Booster had lived a few weeks, told how her brother had been forced to leave Morganza under threats.

She said, "My brother told me when he first came to New Orleans that he and a girl were employed by a white family in Morganza. The boss allegedly had become involved with the girl; his wife discovered the affair.

"The boss, feeling that he had told the madam, threatened to kill Booster. The wife helped him to leave town and he came to me in New Orleans."

She said also that the girl was run out of town.

It is believed that, on returning to New Roads, less than fifteen miles from Morganza, Williams was the victim of mob violence. The Baton Rouge NAACP and Citizens' League are co-operating in the investigation.

Suspect Lynching In Finding Of Boy's Body

BATON ROUGE, La. (ANP)—Efforts are being made here this week to have the state department investigate the suspected lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19, about 35 miles north of Baton Rouge on Highway No. 30. Williams' body was found mutilated last Wednesday morning at 6 a. m. by a white motorist approximately one mile above Morganza.

His nude body was beaten and battered, jaw broken. His throat was cut and portions of his body seemed to have been hacked with a crudely sharp instrument. Undertakers in New Roads state that his organs had been removed.

Seven hours before Williams was found he had visited his sister at New Roads where, last year, a 12 year old Negro boy bearing the same surname was given life in Angola for murdering a white boy.

The motorist said the boy was not dead at the time he was found but by the time his father arrived on the scene, one hour later, the butchered youth had succumbed.

Police and coroner attempted to convince them that he had been run over by a motorist.

Mae Etta Williams, his sister living in New Orleans with whom "Booster" had lived a few weeks ago, told how her brother had been forced to leave Morganza under threats not to come back.

She said, "My brother told me when he first came to New Orleans that he and a colored girl were employed by a white family in Morganza. The boss allegedly had become involved with the colored girl; his wife discovered the affair. The boss, feeling that he had told the madam, threatened to kill Booster. The wife helped him to leave town and he came to me in New Orleans." She said also that the girl was run out of town.

It is believed that on returning to New Roads, less than 15 miles from Morganza, Williams was victim of mob violence. The Baton Rouge NAACP and Citizens' league are asking that the state department launch an investigation.

Citizens Demand Probe Of Louisianan's Death

BATON ROUGE, La.—Efforts are being made here this week to have the state department investigate the suspected lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19, about 35 miles north of Baton Rouge on highway No. 30. Williams' body was found mutilated, last Wednesday morning, by a white motorist, approximately one mile Morganza.

His nude body was beaten and battered, jaw broken, his throat was cut and portions of his body seemed to have been hacked with a crude instrument. Undertakers in New Roads state that his vital organs had been removed.

Seven hours before Williams was found he had visited his sister at New Roads, where last year, a 12-year-old Negro boy bearing the same surname was given life in Angola for murdering a white boy.

The motorist said the boy was not dead at the time he was found, but by the time his father arrived on the scene, one hour later, the butchered youth had succumbed. Police and coroner attempted to show that the youth had been run over by an automobile.

Mae Etta Williams, his sister living in New Orleans, with whom "Booster" had lived a few weeks ago, told how her brother had been forced to leave Morganza under threats to not come back.

She said, "My brother told me when he first came to New Orleans that he and a colored girl were employed by a white family in Morganza. The "boss" allegedly had become involved with the colored girl; his wife discovered the affair. The boss feeling that he (Booster) had told his wife, threatened to kill Booster. The wife helped him to leave town and he came to me in New Orleans." She said also that the girl was run out of town.

It is believed that on returning to New Roads, less than 15 miles from Morganza, Williams was victim of mob violence. The Baton Rouge National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Citizens' League are asking that the state department launch an investigation.

Attorney General Promises Probe In Latest Louisiana Lynching During Past Year

Associated Negro Press Correspondent Receives Letter From Attorney Eugene Stanley Regarding Investigation

Body of Victim Found on Highway

NEW ORLEANS.—(ANP)—Attorney General Eugene Stanley of Louisiana assured in a letter to Leon Lewis of the Associated Negro Press that it was the intention of his department "to fully investigate this matter (the New Roads killing of Booster Williams), and to make every possible effort to ascertain the real cause of death." Investigations and reports since the body of Booster Williams was found one mile above Morganza on Highway 30, have revealed that the Negroes of New Roads and Morganza have been threatened and intimidated by white citizens and police officials and condition of his body when found on the highway by a white motorist, were sent to the attorney-general's office by the local representatives of the ANP.

The attorney general was asked if his department had contemplated launching an investigation into the case to determine whether the boy met death by an automobile accident as claimed by the police authorities of New Roads, or whether he had been lynched in New Roads or Morganza and placed upon the highway and probably run over by an automobile, to make it appear that he had met death by an automobile accident, instead of by mob violence.

Incidents leading up to the notification of the attorney-general's office cast a bit of doubt upon the claims of the local authorities in New Roads, because it was found through investigation that Negro citizens of that city had been threatened and intimidated.

Local ANP representatives and a representative of the Southern Regional conference of the N. A. A. C. P. investigated these reports and found that they were true. Etta Mae Williams, a sister to the "murdered" boy, gave a statement to the press that her brother had come to New Orleans to stay with her about three weeks before his death, and told of his having worked for a white man in Morganza, and that this man had run him out of town, threatening his life, telling him never to return there again.

She said her brother had told her this man suspected he had informed his wife of an affair the husband had had with a colored girl who was in his employ. It was assumed from this information that on returning from New Roads, Booster had met violent death by disobeying the threats of this white man.

Attorney-General Stanley states further in his letter, "I wrote to the district attorney of Point Coupee parish sometime ago, and received a letter from him to the effect that he would make full investigation and report all facts to me as soon as this investigation was complete. If you have any information in your possession which will aid me, as attorney-general, in ascertaining the real facts in this case, please submit the information to me, and I will have the matter thoroughly investigated, so that in the event it should be disclosed this man was murdered, the evidence warrants the charging of any individual or individuels with the crime of murder, the proper charge may be immediately charged."

Factual information and affidavits, as soon as they can be secured will be forwarded to the office of the attorney-general for his consideration and action, Lewis said.

SHERIFF-LED MOB OF LOUISIANA TOWN LEAVES MAN TO DIE

Dixie Gangsters Badly Beat James Smith After Taking Him From Lawyer's Custody

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La., Sept. 12 (By Leon Lewis for ANP)—From the shadow of the St. Francisville court house, hoodlums of hoodlums led by by Sheriff Ted Martin snatched James Smith from the car of his New Orleans attorney, hustled him to a nearby wooded sector, beat him with chains and brick-bats and left him to die.

James Smith, a New Orleans longshoreman, had gone with his attorney, Charles J. Mundy, to St. Francisville, where he had entered a civil suit for damages and false arrest against Ewen Ritchie in the sum of $1,294.

In May of this year Smith's automobile en route from St. Francisville on a visit, backfired and scared a mule which jumped upon his car damaging the car and then falling to the ground breaking its neck. He reported the accident to authorities in a nearby town.

Later he was arrested in New Orleans, taken back to St. Francisville and tried for reckless driving. He was released and Attorney Mundy immediately filed damage suit.

On last Monday, the court decided in favor of the defendant, Ewen Ritchie. At the end of the trial, Mundy and Smith came out of the courthouse to return to New Orleans.

Upon reaching his car Mundy discovered all the tires had been flated and that Ritchie and three other white men were responsible. After having the tires fixed he went back into the courthouse to file affidavit against the quartet.

It was while he was in the courthouse that the truck load of hoodlums took Smith to the wooded section and attempted to lynch him leaving him to die.

Mundy searched vainly for him and proceeded to return to New Orleans. As he travelled slowly on the highway, not far from St. Francisville, he saw an object of human dimensions staggering out of the woods. It was Smith, bleeding and marred with lacerations from chain and brick-bats.

Mundy rushed him to Baton Rouge hospital for first aid and then brought him to New Orleans' Charity hospital, where he is now confined with a fractured jaw, scarred and bruised head and body.

Smith stated that he recognized Sheriff Ted Martin, A. P. LeBlanc a white man of Tunica, Ewen Ritchie his attorney and two brothers.

Attorney Munday stated that he would fight the incident to the U. S. Supreme court if necessary to get reprisal. He stated that it is the first time in this state that a public officer has led a lynch mob, and that he cannot see for what reason the hoodlums would want to lynch Smith after they had won the case.

State Attorney Promises To Probe Lynching

Asks Journalist For All Evidence Suggesting Murder

NEW ORLEANS, La.—(ANP)—Attorney-General Eugene Stanley of Louisiana in a letter to Leon Lewis of the Associated Negro Press declared that it was the intention of his department to fully investigate" the New Roads killing of Booster Williams, and to make every possible effort to ascertain the real cause of death."

Investigations and reports since the body of Williams was found one mile above Morganza on Highway 30, have revealed that the Negroes of New Roads and Morganza have been threatened and intimidated by white citizens and police officials of Point Coupe parish.

This information, together with statements of the boy's relatives and conditions of his body when found on the highway by a white motorist, were sent to the attorney-general's office.

The attorney-general was asked if his department had contemplated launching an investigation into the case to determine whether the boy met death by an automobile accident, as claimed by the police authorities of New Roads, or whether he had been lynched in New Roads or Morganza and placed upon the highway and probably run over by an automobile accident, instead of by mob violence.

Attorney-general Stanley states further in his letter, "I wrote to the district attorney of Point Coupe parish some time ago, and received a letter from him to the effect that he would make full investigation and report all facts to me as soon as this investigation was completed.

"If you have any information in your possession which will aid me, as attorney-general, in ascertaining the real facts in this case, please submit the information to me, and I will have the matter thoroughly investigated, so that in the event it should be disclosed this man was murdered, the evidence warrants the charging of any individual or individuals with the crime of murder, the proper charge may be immediately charged."

MOB LEADERS SEEK TO QUASH INVESTIGATION

Defender

Threaten Race Residents For Attempting To Clear Up Crime

6-29-40

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LEFT TO DIE IN WOODLANDS

Victim Was Cleared in Case Involving Accident on Highway Last May

SEP 14 1940

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Lynching Feared

SEP 14 1940

MINDEN, La. (ANP) — Colored residents in this section are concerned over the fate of R. L. Jones, 24-year-old laborer in the paper mill at Springhill, La., near here, whose disappearance is whispered about as a lynching.

According to available information, Jones was last seen with his brother and cousin on the night of Wednesday, August 28, when he was awakened by the sheriff and two other white men who said they wanted to talk with him. Jones was carried away by the trio and hasn't been seen since then.

When Jones failed to return, his relatives contacted the sheriff who named three towns where the young man might be. They investigated and found nothing of him.

The fear has been expressed that Jones has been made a victim of the new silent lynching technique now prevalent in the South.

Unearth New Evidence In Louisiana Lynching of 19-Year-Old Morganza Youth

Clark Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Many Refuse To Reveal Evidence Because They Have Been Threatened by Mob Members

Was Ordered Out of Town By Former Employer

NOV 2 1940

By LEON LEWIS

NEW ORLEANS.—(ANP)—The alleged lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19-year-old Morganza youth between Morganza and New Roads earlier this year, was brought to the spotlight again this week when new evidence was unearthed.

When "Booster's" body was found mutilated on the highway last spring, and the coroner's report indicated that he had been run over by an automobile or truck, connecting incidents leading up to the tragedy cast a possibility that he had met his death by the hands of an individual or mob.

About a month prior to the tragedy, Williams had reportedly been ordered out of Morganza by his former employer, Lawrence Kennison, a white beer parlor operator, who had accused Booster of telling his wife of an affair the Kennison man had with a Negro girl, Eula Willis, who was employed at his tavern as waitress.

NOV 2 1940

Attorney General Eugene Stanley was informed of the matter and the allegatios that he had met death through violence, and promised a thorough investigation. According to the data and documents in the hands of the state department of justice, the investigation was carried through in routine form and circumstantially disproved allegations that Booster was lynched or murdered. The fact that the coroner issued two reports as to the cause of Booster's death and condition in which his body was found promulgated a secretive investigation to ascertain the actual happening on the night that Booster met his death.

The report compiled by the attorney general was, principally, statements of individuals who might have known if there had been any violence on that night. Some of these individuals, upon being questioned by the attorney general, denied that they had knowledge of mob violence against Williams.

Shortly following this questioning, several Negroes closely associated with Kennison and whom it is reported had threatened Booster, left town and seemed to be greatly disturbed by the incident. The girl involved, Eula Willis, was last heard of in Chicago about three months ago.

Booster told his sister after leaving Morganza under threats of Kennison, and coming to New Orleans, that Mrs. Kennison, the wife, forced him to tell her that he knew of an affair between her husband and Miss Willis.

It was following this that Booster came to New Orleans to stay with his sister, and being unable to find employment here went to Baton Rouge to live with an uncle. He visited home in Morganza and returned to Baton Rouge to accept the job, which he kept only a few days and was fired. Unable to receive assistance from his uncle in Baton Rouge after losing the job, he returned to Morganza again, and early the next morning after arriving there his body was found mutilated on the highway about four miles south of Morganza. He was picked up by the owner of the Stonewall plantation, a white man by the name of Schexnayder, who has reportedly told several people that the mob was formed near his plantation and that Booster was beaten in his barn and carried to the spot where his body was found and deliberately run over by a truck.

Amos Evans, a Negro of Morganza, who delivers ice, and who refused to testify to state investigators, told some of Booster's realtives that he had seen the boy's body lying on the side of the road, but because of the tense feeling was afraid to stop and give him aid. This was approximately 30 minutes before he was picked up by Schexnayder, and according to Evans' statement he was still alive.

Two Negroes now in New Orleans, Johnny Willis and Nathan Patterson, are also supposed to know all about the case. They also were intimidated and would not testify as to what they know.

It is alleged by several people in Morganza and New Roads and May Etta Williams, Booster's sister in New Orleans, that Kennison hired a group of Negroes and whites to carry his mob attack upon Booster.

MAINE MOB BURNS JEHOVAH SECT HOME

Action Follows Shooting of Two Kennebunk Men by Group Barricaded in House

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

KENNEBUNK, Me., June 9—Infuriated by the shooting of two men, members of the sect of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2,500 townspeople gathered and burned the local headquarters of the organization today.

State police, who raided the place and arrested six men after the shooting, reported seizing religious tracts and pamphlets, two shotguns, a rifle, maps of the Maine coast and industrial areas and pictures of Stalin and Hitler.

Two out-of-State organizers of the sect were beaten by a crowd of 1,000 last night at near-by Sanford when they refused to salute an American flag.

Those wounded in the shooting today were Dwight Robinson, aged 34, a shipyard worker, and Fred McDonald, 33. They were wounded in the legs and thighs and their condition was reported as serious. They were members of an automobile party which halted outside the one-story house of Edwin Robb, local leader of the sect, which was used as the organization's headquarters.

Robb and five other members had barricaded themselves because of reports that they were to be attacked as an aftermath of the Sanford incident. Soon after the automobile stopped a blast of shotgun fire came from the house.

The police arrested Robb, Benjamin Graves of Kennebunk and Richard Trask and Fayette Snowdale of Biddeford. Carroll S. Madsen and Joseph Leathers were seized later at Portland, where they live. All were held on charges of assault.

The prisoners were taken to the local lock-up. A crowd which gathered soon after word of the shooting had spread started for the jail, but was headed off by a squad of police. A parley followed and during the delay the prisoners were transferred to the York County jail at Alfred.

The mob then marched to the Robb house, threw its furnishings into the street, smashed and fired them and then put the house to the torch.

Lynch Mob Incited Against Religionists

Headquarters Burned by Maine Crowd in Second Riot

KENNEBUNK, Me., June 9 (UP).—The headquarters of a religious group were burned by a crowd of several hundred persons today after members of the group allegedly had shot two men. It was the second outbreak of violence over the cult in 24 hours in southern Maine.

The group's leader and five male members were arrested in connection with the shooting and three women members were escorted from the town under police guard.

Sergeant Granville Seaman of the State Police said that trouble had been expected and that two officers were stationed near the headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses.

About 500 persons took part in the riot and severely beat two alleged members of the religious group. The victims of the beating identified themselves as members of Jehovah's Witnesses, local police said, and were placed in police cells for protection. No charge was placed against them. They were identified as Frederick J. Whitzel of Decatur, Ala., and Lloyd S. Stull of Chloe, West Va.

The Result of Roosevelt's War Hysteria

• The lynch violence which reigns in Southern Maine is the logical result of the war hysteria which is being deliberately fomented by the Roosevelt Administration.

Four youthful members of Jehovah's Witnesses have been shot, several other members beaten, and the temple of the religious group has been burned to the ground—all within three days. A total of $60,000 bail has been placed on four members of the group, while the guilty arsonists appear to be free.

It is not the sanctity of the flag salute which these mobsters are upholding by persecuting a group because of its religious objections. This mob terror itself defiles the tradition of religious liberty which the American flag is to symbolize.

Once violence takes place against a single minority, no one is safe. In Kennebunk, Me., the home of a person of some other faith was stormed by "mistake," endangering the lives of himself, wife and two daughters.

It is plain that the flag salute in the hands of the war-mongers and false "patriots" becomes a convenient pretext for attacking everyone who does not toe the mark for the Roosevelt-Wall Street drive toward war. The Supreme Court opened the door for these lawless persecutions when it denied religious liberty to Jehovah's Witnesses in a recent war-inciting decision which violated the Bill of Rights. The Klan could quote the Supreme Court ruling as authority for religious bigotry.

Religious hatreds are fanned by this sort of violence, menacing the freedom of every religious or minority group in the country. The Bill of Rights contains no exceptions, and the people should let national and state authorities know it. The war madness which Roosevelt is trying to spread undermines the very pillars of American freedom.

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U. S. Pushes Probe On Rockville Mob

The Department of Justice has no immediate intention of dropping its investigation of a mob attack on a meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses in Rockville, Md., June 29, an official of the Civil Liberties unit declared last night.

Whatever action the department takes, it was stated, will be determined, in part, upon how fully it considers the requirements of justice in the case have been met by the State.

A Montgomery Circuit Court voted acquittal Monday for ten defendants accused in the attack.

Meanwhile, it was learned, the department has under consideration a "great number" of cases of alleged civil liberties violations, most of which are attacks against Jehovah's Witnesses.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
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MARYLAND

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Jehovah Seet Moves Session To Washington

Post

Leaves Rockville, Md., After Mob Violence; FBI Scans Evidence

6-25-42

Usual Sunday night Bible study meeting of the Jehovah's Witnesses at Rockville, Md. was transferred to Washington last night. Federal Bureau of Investigation agents have not completed their investigation of the attack by a mob on the headquarters of the Witnesses last Wednesday night, Dr. A. R. Olson, company servant or leader for Montgomery County, Md., explained.

The Witnesses are leaving the headquarters in Rockville in the same condition that was apparent after the mob tore up the interior when the Witnesses refused to go downstairs and salute an American flag until the investigations of the incident are completed, Dr. Olson said.

F. B. I. agents have questioned Chief of Police Charles M. Orme, who, with three subordinates, was suspended by the Montgomery County commissioners pending complete investigation of the failure of county police to protect the meeting, and a number of other witnesses.

Sergt. Guy L. Jones and Policemen Leslie Thompson and Charles Peters are awaiting action of the county police trial board for alleged failure to protect the cult members from the mob.

Chief Orme, a political appointee, can be dismissed by the county commissioners without trial, but all other members of the force are under protection of civil service.

The county commissioners met all day Saturday in special session to hear witnesses in the incident and then announced suspension of Chief Orme and his aides. Sergt. Roy Bodmer, veteran member of the force, was named acting chief of police during Orme's suspension.

Maryland C.P. Demands Arrest of Lynch Leaders

Challenges Senators Tydings, Radcliffe to State Position at Once on Anti-Lynch Bill Now Before Senate; CIO Leader Wires Gov.

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 15.—In a wire to Governor Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland, the Communist Party here today demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of mob leaders who Wednesday seized Martha and Lillian Blake, Negro mother and her 14-year-old daughter, and threatened them with lynching at Snow Hill.

The wire, signed by Albert E. Blumberg, State Secretary of the Communist Party, declared: "The lynch attack on a Negro woman and child in Snow Hill is a disgrace to the State of Maryland. We demand that you bring pressure upon county authorities for the immediate arrest and prosecution of the mob leaders. We demand full police protection for the Negro people of the Eastern Shore against lynch terror."

The Communist Party here also issued a public statement in which it held up this latest case of mob violence as further proving the need of the anti-lynching bill now before the Senate. The statement challenged Senators Tydings and Radcliffe to declare immediately their position on the measure.

Meanwhile a flood of telegrams is pouring in upon Governor O'Connor protesting the actions of the mob which fought a pitched battle in Snow Hill for thirty minutes before being dispersed.

John T. Jones, President of the Maryland CIO, wired the Governor that "I cannot find language strong enough with which to urge you to take every possible precaution against lynching on the Eastern Shore."

MARYLAND POSSE HUNTS MAN IN BOG

Thinks Snowstorm and Cold Will Drive Out Suspect in Farmer's Slaying

NEGRO WOMEN SHIFTED

Sheriff Says No Demand for Action Against Mob That Seized Them Has Arisen

SNOW HILL, Md., Feb. 14 (UP)—State troopers searched in a cold, blizzard-swept swamp today for another suspect wanted in a farmer's slaying after two Negro women, rescued from an angry mob last night, had been safely put in a jail at Bel Air, Md.

A posse of about seventy-five officers and civilians reported the swamp surrounded and predicted that the storm and fast-dropping temperature would drive the suspect from hiding. Visibility at times was reduced to twenty-five yards by the heavy snowfall.

Under the alert watch of State police, this Eastern Shore area showed no signs of last night's disorder, in which a mob estimated officially at 1,000 men, smashed in the Worcester County jail. They took the women in a threatened avenging of the death on Sunday of Harvey W. Pilchard, 61, and the wounding of his wife Annie at their home in near-by Stockton.

The women, from whom the mob sought to learn the identity and whereabouts of the slayers, were taken to the Harford County jail on orders of Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, who announced that he was assuming "full responsibility" for their safekeeping.

Also in jail at Bel Air were two Negro men, one of whom was removed from the Worcester jail just before the mob stormed it. The other had been held at Salisbury, Md.

The women, Martha Blake, 31, and her daughter, Lillian Virginia, 14, walked out of the swamp and surrendered yesterday to men on guard. Police said they were companions of the suspect still being sought.

Sheriff J. William Hall said that at least forty members of the raiding party had been identified.

"There has been no demand for action against the mob," he added. "We have no plan of action now. We know the ringleaders and feel that the situation is well in hand."

"It is not my job to lead the investigation here," said William Kerbin, State's Attorney. "My only task is to prepare cases against such persons as may be arrested by the Sheriff. We have not heard any complaints from any parties, nor have we had any formal charges filed with us."

TROOPERS, MOB HUNT FOR NEGRO SUSPECT

Maryland State Police Guard Against Violence

STOCKTON, Md., Feb. 14.—(UP)—Armed state troopers maintained order in this area tonight after a pitched battle with an angry mob which had dragged the common law wife and 14-year-old daughter of a fugitive Negro killer from a nearby jail.

Despite the presence of the troopers, it was feared that Dave Collick, identified by Mrs. Harvey Pilchard as one of two negroes who on Sunday night killed her wealthy husband and injured her, would not emerge alive from a swamp near here in which he was said to be hiding. More than 1000 incensed villagers, armed with guns, sticks, lead pipe and stones, have surrounded the swamp.

Trouble Feared

"If we catch him before they do, we'll put up a fight and you can bet on that," said State Police Sergt. Homer R. Baker. "We'll do everything within our power to protect him."

Police said every precaution is being taken to prevent a repetition of last night's rioting in which two troopers were injured. The trouble began when 250 mobsmen, brandishing a noose, moved on the jail at Snow Hill Md.

Taken From Jail

They were searching for Margie Blake, 32, Collick's common law wife, Lillian Virginia, 14, their daughter, and a negro named George Selby, all held as witnesses in the Pilchard killing. Failing to find Selby after forcing entrance into the jail, the mob seized the negress and her daughter and forced them into an automobile.

Gov. Herbert R. O'Connor dispatched troopers to the scene. They arrived a few moments after the mob had left and started in pursuit. The battle followed.

Innocent Targets of Lynch Mob



Targets of a violent lynch mob at Snow Hill, Md., Martha Blake, 31, and her daughter Lillian, 14, were seized and dragged from jail and threatened with a noose. Even the jailing of the women was in the lynch spirit; there were no charges against them. The purpose was to "extract" confessions from them concerning a vague charge of murder against their husband and father—two days after the Supreme Court had outlawed the third-degree in upholding Negro rights.

Maryland Mob Continues Lynch Hunt for Negro

Earlier Attempt to Hang Young Negro Child, Mother, Is Foiled by State Police; Many Injured in Frenzied Clash

STOCKTON, Md., Feb. 14.—In open defiance of the United States Supreem Court ruling of two days ago upholding Negro rights, a lynch mob of more than 1,000 battled police for half an hour before the officers were able to rescue a Negro woman and her 14-year-old daughter.

Fifty-three heavily armed state troopers patrolled this area tonigh after a pitched battle with the mob.

Despite the fierce fight and the fact that a noose was found in the possession of some of the members of the mob no arrests were made. The Negro woman and her daughter had been kidnaped by the lynchers from the jail at Snow Hill.

Despite the presence of the troops, it was feared that Dave Collick, "identified" by Mrs. Harvey Pilchard as one of two Negroes who on Sunday night allegedly killed her wealthy husband and then ravished and shot her, would not emerge alive from a swamp near here in which he was said to be hiding.

More than 1,000 incensed mobsters armed with guns, sticks, lead pipe and stones, have surrounded the swamp. They converged methodically on the center of it, unmindful of dropping temperatures and snow.

"If we catch him before they do, we'll put up a fight and you can bet on that," said State Police Sergeant Homer R. Baker. "We'll do everything within our power to protect him."

He said every precaution is being taken to prevent a repetition of last night's rioting in which two troopers, Sergeant W. H. Weber and Charles Dispey, were injured. The trouble began when 250 mobsmen, brandishing a noose, moved on the jail at Snow Hill, Md.

They were searching for Margie Blake, 32, Collick's wife, Virginia their daughter, and a Negro named George Selby, all held as witnesses in the Pilchard killing. Failing to find Selby after forcing entrance into the jail, the mob seized the woman and her daughter and forced them into an automobile.

TELLS OF FRENZIED ATTACK

A hurried call was sent to Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor who disapatched 25 troopers to the scene. They arrived a few minutes after the mob had left and started a pursuit which lasted until midnight when the raiding party was contacted.

The battle followed. Many in the mob carried guns, police said, but no shots were fired. The woman and girl screamed throughout the melee but were unharmed. Officials said they believed the noose was intended to frighten them into disclosing Collick's hideout.

The temper of the mob was described by Baker who arrived shortly after the fight began. He said the troopers and mobsters were milling about in the streets.

"Some of the mobsters were throwing stones and others were wielding bottles and clubs," he said. "I waded in and tried to help get the women out of the automobile. They were screaming and there was a lot of cursing. Weber had been knocked down by a club and was being kicked about.

"Disney also was clubbed and members of the mob kicked him in the ribs every time he tried to get up. Several members of the mob were hurt."

He said the fight lasted for 30 minutes after which the woman and girl were placed in a police car and driven away. No arrests were made.

Baker said that bloodhounds were withdrawn from the search for Collick because they were useless in the thickly matted underbrush, briars and bo[illegible] that made up the swamp in whic[illegible] Negro was reported in hidi[illegible] He doubted that the dogs could pierce the swamp and even if they could man could not follow.

"We'll just have to close in on Collick slowly," he said. "It might take a day or two."

LABOR DEFENSE SENDS PROTESTS

The International Labor Defense sent a sharp protest to Gov. Herbert R. O'Connor of Maryland against the barbarous attempt to lynch Martha and Willian Blake, Negro mother and child in Snow Hill, Maryland, yesterday.

The wire read as follows: **"Vigorous protest barbarous lynch attack on Mrs. Blake and her daughter. Three hundred thousand members and affiliates of the International Labor Defense demand thorough investigation and punishment of those guilty. Copy to Senate Committee discussing Anti-Lynch Bill. Signed, Anna Damon, Secretary."**

With the copy of the wire sent to Senate Committee, the International Labor Defense also stated that it had repeatedly gone on record in favor of the passage of the federal Anti-Lynch Bill and feels that the latest lynch barbarism which occurred in Snow Hill, Maryland, is one of the most brutal but eloquent arguments in favor of the passage of the bill now before the Senate Committee.

The International Labor Defense asked that similar wires and protests be sent by friends and workers to the Governor and Senate Committee.

Slayers Of Grocer Sought

Ripping Gale Drives Hunters To Seek Shelter

BULLETIN!

SNOW HILL, Md.—(SNS)—A posse headed by state troopers Saturday had captured Arthus Collick, suspect in the slaying of Harry W. Pilchard, white, and spirited him away to an unnamed jail to prevent an enraged citizenry from lynching him. He was reported to Belair, in northern Maryland. He was captured in a densely timbered area near Girdle Tree where it is believed he had been hiding since Sunday night when he allegedly killed the farmer.

WASHINGTON—(ANP)—The now famous Maryland "lynch mob" has resolved itself into a posse according to latest reports and is hunting the alleged slayers of the aged white store keeper in swamps surrounding the countryside.

Meanwhile [illegible] other colored persons [illegible] men and two women, were held at the Harford County jail at Bel Air for investigation in the shooting.

Two women were taken to jail after their rescue by state troopers the night before from the mob at Stockton.

The mob that seized the two women Tuesday night, broke all the jail's locks and told 18 other Negro prisoners they could go free it was learned later.

Sixteen, including Hazell Purnell and Dallas Holden, both held in another slaying, refused to go, said Jailer Gordon Bowen. The two accepting the offer of freedom, Louis Darley and Lawrence Adkins, charged with larceny, were caught soon afterward, a few miles away.

Sheriff H. William Hall said at least 40 members of the raiding party had been identified adding, "There has been no demand for action against the mob. We have no plan of action now."

Official estimates say at least 1,000 persons were in the mob which stormed the jail and seized the prisoners, two colored women. They were rescued by the actions of 25 state troopers who fought their way through the mob, took the women from an automobile and brought them to safety.

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MISSISSIPPI

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

Bullets Of Sheriffs' Posse Bring Death To Negro Desperado

PORT GIBSON, Miss. — (AP) — "Texas Red," gaunt Negro slaying suspect who had conducted an intermittent running gun battle with officers for more than a month, was shot and killed by a tri-county sheriff's posse near here about 2 p.m. Saturday after officers said he refused to surrender.

Sheriff Sam Dagnell formed the posse of officers and citizens of Copiah, Jefferson and Claiborne Counties early Saturday after the Negro had been reported by a Negro resident where he had obtained food.

The sheriff said his men came across the 6-foot-2-inch Negro, who looked something like an Indian, this morning and they exchanged pistol shots, the suspect escaping. Sheriff Dagnell asked Gov. Paul Johnson in Jackson for three national guardsmen with high-powered rifles, but before they arrived the posse again found "Texas Red."

He was called upon to halt, but ran instead, and two men with rifles shot him down. He lived 45 minutes, but refused to talk. The posse took two pistols off his body, and found another he had dropped a moment before. His supply of ammunition was almost exhausted, the sheriff reported.

The Negro's feet were badly cut from tramping through the wild forest lands during the state's worst freeze in decades. He wore no shoes, but his feet were swathed in heavy bandages.

Possemen reported seeing the fugitive walk up hills backwards to take the pressure off his painfully bruised and skinned soles.

The body was brought here for finger-printing and then turned over to Jefferson County officers.

The Negro was wanted there for burning a barn as well as for killing a youth and wounding a peace officer and his brother at Meadville, Miss., New Year's Day.

Hillard Hill, Meadville, was killed and Constable Phillip Shell and his brother, R. J. Shell, wounded when they attempted to question two Negroes in connection with a series of robberies.

Posses had ombed the surrounding counties and Homochitto Forest for the slain Negro, and a companion known as "Oklahoma Red" or "Oklahoma Kid," whom it is now believed made his way across the Mississippi River into Louisiana and escaped.

FIRST 1940 LYNCHING IN MISSISSIPPI

Posse Slays 'Texas Red' on Eve of Senate Anti-Lynch Bill Hearings

PORT GIBSON, Miss. — Three days before the senate opened hearings on the federal anti-lynching bill, Mississippi gave the nation its first lynching of 1940 when Saturday, Feb. 3, a posse shot and killed a man known only as "Texas Red."

Sheriff Sam Bagnell said that the posse shot "Texas Red," when he attempted to flee when cornered near Hermanville, Miss. The sheriff denied that the slaying was a lynching.

"We don't lynch people in this country," he said. "There was no danger or threat of lynching."

"Texas Red" had been sought for a month in connection with the slaying on New Year's Day of Hillard Hill, white deputy, near Meadville.

After he was shot, "Red" lived 45 minutes. Although he knew he was fatally injured, he denied knowledge of the slaying of Hill.

Sheriff Bagnell said that he had asked Governor Paul Johnson to send national guardsmen to the Homochitto National Forest to aid in the capture of "Texas Red" and a companion, "Oklahoma Red."

The slaying occurred near Hermanville on Rep. Tom R. Trim's plantation.

The fatal rifle bullets were fired by "Coots" Massa, son of ex-City Marshall Philip Massa of Hazelhurst, according to Deputy W. C. Davis, leader of the posse.

"Red" was thinly clad for the extreme weather experienced in this section recently and was suffering from exposure. His feet were wrapped in sacks alone, and the skin was peeled off his soles. He carried two guns at the time of his death.

The posse, which during the hunt of a month and three days had him cornered several times only to lose him, trailed him with bloodhounds. Saturday when he was again cornered he would fire at the searching party each time he was approached, meanwhile managing to stay on the third of the woods.

Finlly he passed a clear section and Massa fired, the shot taking effect in his side. The white man kept firing and the fugitive fell, mortaaly wounded. He was about six feet tall, weighed around 200, and showed signs of wounds received when the hunt first started.

Officers said other Negroes were mainly responsible for cornering the suspect. They tipped off police and posse members several times as to where "Red" had recently been sighted, and Friday night the manhunters were again placed on the trail by a Negro who told them "Texas Red" had been to his home in search of food.

Posse Kills Suspect

HERMANVILLE, Miss. — A slaying suspect, known only as "Oklahoma Red," was shot to death near here, Saturday, by white man who, Sheriff Sam Bagnell said, had been deputized, before National Guardsmen could be dispatched to search for him and a companion, known as "Texas Red."

Fugitive Is Finally Slain By Possemen

By JAMES C. DICKERSON

PORT GIBSON, Miss., Feb. 16— Local peace officers "got their man," Tuesday after a 30-day manhunt, when they captured "Texas Red," gaunt Race man slaying suspect after fatally wounding him.

The fugitive, who had conducted an intermittent running gun battle with the posse for more than a month, was shot and killed by a tri-county sheriff's posse near here after officers said he refused to surrender. Although he lived an hour after his capture the man refused to reveal his identity.

In capturing "Red," Sheriff S. Bagnell hurriedly formed a posse of officers and citizens of Copiah Jefferson and Claiborne counties early Saturday after the fugitive had been reported by a Race resident from whom he obtained food

sought by police

Gatlin, reportedly, beat the youngster for "talking back" to him after he had attempted to force the child to work against his will.

Authorities fearing a possible riot or further mob violence spirited Morris and others away after arresting and charging them with assault.

Other Negroes in the vicinity have been threatened and a special police detail has been kept busy quelling further trouble. Gatlin holds a reputation of beating Negroes when they "get too smart." His condition is serious, it is reported.

The police chief said the unusual attack upon a white man by Negroes occurred Wednesday on his farm about 12 miles from here. Two carloads of men, he said, proceeded to Gatlin's farm, fractured his skull, drove his teeth into his jaws, kicked and beat him into insensibility and left him for dead.

Six of the group bore the family name of Morris, indicating relationship to the boy. Only one has confessed, police reported.

FLOG WHITE FARMER WHO BEAT YOUTH

Police Nab Suspect, Hunt 7 Others In McComb, Miss., District

By LEON LEWIS

McCOMB, Miss. — Alton Gatlin, 37, a white Smithsdale farmer lay in the hospital here with a fractured skull resulting from a flogging by eight men who attacked him after he had beaten a boy. One of the men, D. Morris, was arrested and three others are being held in an unknown jail. The other four are being

Man Beaten By Mob Led By Sheriff, Left To Die

Had Sued Mobsters For False Arrest

By LEON LEWIS

ST. FRANCISVILLE, La.—(ANP)—From the shadow of the St. Franceville court house, two truck loads of hoodlums led by Sheriff Ted Martin, snatched James Smith from the car of his New Orleans attorney, hustled him to a nearby wooded sector, beat him with tracc chains and brick-bats and left him to die.

SEP 1 1940

SUIT IS FILED

James Smith, a New Orleans longshoreman, had gone with his attorney, Charles J. Mundy, to St. Francisville, where he had entered a civil suit for damages and false arrest against Ewen Ritchie in the sum of $1,294.

In May of this year Smith's automobile enroute from St. Francisville on a visit, backfired and scared a mule which jumped upon his car damaging it and then falling to the ground breaking its neck. He reported the accident to authorities in a nearby town.

Later he was arrested in New Orleans, taken back to St. Francisville and tried for reckless driving. He was released and Atty. Mundy immediately filed damage suit.

On last Monday, the court decided in favor of the defendant, Ewen Ritchie. At the end of the trial Mundy and Smith came out of the courthouse to return to New Orleans.

Upon reaching his car Mundy discovered that the tires had been deflated and that Ritchie and three white men were responsible. After having tires fixed he went back into the courthouse and filed affidavit against the quartet.

It was while he was in the courthouse that the truck load of hoodlums took Smith to the wooded section and attempted to lynch him, leaving him to die.

STAGGERED OUT OF WOODS

Mundy searched vainly for him and proceeded to return to New Orleans. As he travelled slowly on the highway, not far from St. Francisville, he saw an object of human demensions staggering out of the woods. It was Smith, bleeding and marred with lacerations from chains and brick-bats.

Mundy rushed him to Baton Rouge hospital for first aid and then brought him to New Orleans Charity hospital, where he is now confined with a fractured jaw, scarred and bruised head and body.

Smith stated that he recognized Sheriff Ted Martin, A. P. LeBlanc, a white man of Tunica, Ewen Ritchie, his attorney and two brothers.

Attorney Mundy stated that he would fight the incident to the U. S. Supreme court if necessary to get reprisal. He stated that it is the first time in this state that a public officer had led a lynch mob, and that he cannot see for what reason the hoodlums would want to lynch Smith after they had won the case.

Unearth New Evidence In Louisiana Lynching

OCT 28 1940

NEW ORLEANS. — (By Leon Lewis for ANP)—The alleged lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19-year-old Morganza youth between Morganza and New Roads earlier this year was brought to the spotlight again this week when new evidence was unearthed.

When "Booster's" body was found mutilated on the highway last spring, and the coroner's report indicated that he had been run over by an automobile or truck, connecting incidents leading up to the tragedy cast a possibility that he had met his death by the hands of an individual or mob.

About a month prior to the tragedy, Williams had reported been ordered out of Morganza by his former employer, Lawrence Kennison, a white beer-parlor operator, who had accused Booster of telling his wife of an affair the Kennison man had with a Negro girl, Eula Willis, who was employed at his tavern as waitress.

Attorney-General Eugene Stanley was informed of the matter and the allegation that he had met death through violence, and promised a thorough investigation. According to the data and documents in the hands of the state department of justice, the investigation was carried through in routine form and circumstantially disproved allegations that Booster was lynched or murdered. The fact that the coroner issued two reports as to the cause of Booster's death and condition in which his body was found promulgated a secretive investigation to ascertain the actual happening on the night that Booster met his death.

The report compiled by the attorney-general was principally statements of individuals who might have known if there had been any violence on that night. Some of these individuals, upon being questioned by the attorney-general, denied that they had knowledge of any violence against Williams.

Shortly following this questioning, several Negroes closely associated with Kennison and whom it is reported had threatened Booster, left town, and seemed to be greatly disturbed by the incident. The girl involved, Eula Willis, was last heard of in Chicago about three months ago.

Booster told his sister after leaving Morganza under threats of Kennison, and coming to New Orleans, that Mrs. Kennison, the wife, forced him to tell her that he knew of an affair between her husband and Miss Willis.

It was following this that Booster came to New Orleans to stay with his sister, and being unable to find employment here went to Baton Rouge to live with an uncle. He visited home in Morganza and returned to Baton Rouge to accept the job, which he kept only a few days and was fired. Unable to receive assistance from his uncle in Baton Rouge after losing the job, he returned to Morganza again, and early the next morning after arriving there his body was found mutilated on the highway about four miles south of Morganza. He was picked up by the owner of the Stonewall plantation a white man by the name of Schexnayder, who has reportedly told several people that the mob was formed near his plantation and that Booster was beaten in his barn and carried to the spot where his body was found and deliberately run over by a truck.

Amos Evans, a Negro of Morganza, who delivers ice, and who refused to testify to state investigators, told some of Booster's relatives that he had seen the boy's body lying on the side of the road, but because of the tense feeling was afraid to stop and give him aid. This was approximately 30 minutes before he was picked up by Schexnayder, and according to Evans' statement, he was still alive.

Two Negroes now in New Orleans, Johnny Willis and Nathan Patterson, are also supposed to know all about the case. They also were intimidated and would not testify as to what they knew.

It is alleged by several people in Morganza and New Roads and May Etta Williams, Booster's sister in New Orleans, that Kennison hired a group of Negroes and whites to carry his mob attack upon Booster.

These new facts in the case are a result of an investigation by the New Orleans Anti-Crime league, and will be sent to Attorney-General Eugene Stanley asking that he reopen the investigation.

OCT 26 1940

INK TAVERN KEEPER WITH MAN'S MURDER

Charge Suspect Accused Victim Of Revealing 'Affair' to Wife

NOV 2 1940

NEW ORLEANS.—The alleged lynching of "Booster" Williams, 19-year-old Morganza youth between Morganza and New Roads earlier this year was brought to the spotlight again this week when new evidence was unearthed.

When "Booster's" body was found mutilated on the highway last spring, and the coroner's report indicated that he had been run over by an automobile or truck, connecting incidents leading up to the tragedy cast a possibility that he had met his death by the hands of an individual or mob.

About a month prior to the tragedy, Williams had reportedly been ordered out of Morganza by his former employer, Lawrence Kennison, a white beer parlor operator, who had accused Booster of telling his wife of an affair the Kennison man had with a Race girl, Eula Willis, who was employed at his tavern as waitress.

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Found On Highway

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Afraid To Give Aid

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NEW EVIDENCE IS UNEARTHED IN L.A. ON LYNCHING CASE

NOV 8 1940

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MILITIA ON WAY TO HELP NEGRO HUNTED BY MOB

Suspect In Killing Is Reported Trapped In Mississippi

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 4—(AP)—Gov. Hugh White Thursday dispatched militia here in an attempt to prevent the lynching of a Negro trapped by a mob of 100 men in a heavily wooded area near Meadville.

Almost at the same instant reports drifted through of two attempts by residents Monday night to seize a Negro jailed at Columbia in a case which had no conection with the Meadville incident. The attempts at Columbia were reported unsuccessful and all danger passed with removal ofthe Negro to an unnamed jail.

At Jackson Thursday Gov. White received from Deputy Sheriff Graname Herring, of Meadville, an urgent telephone request for armed assistance to prevent the threatened violence.

Maj. T. B. Birdsong, head of Mississippi's National Guard, left at 3:45 p.m. with five guardsmen equipped with sidearms and tear gas and sent a message to Capt. Guice here giving him authority to press a small local unit into service.

Justice of the Peace W. R. Mitchell, of Knoxville, which is three miles from Meadville and about an equal distance from the mob scene, gave this account of the trouble:

On Monday two Negroes known as "Oklahoma Red" and Red Williams who had been blamed for church robberies and other depredations were surprised and attacked in a house at Meadville. Twenty-one-year-old Hillard Hall of Franklin County, was killed in a gun fight which followed and two other white men in the attacking party were wounded. These were J. W. Shell and his brother, Constable Phillip Shell.

The Negroes escaped and have been hunted with mounting intensity since. Thursday at noon the Negro known as Red Williams was reported by an uninvolved Negro, O. Z. Paine, to have fled to his house just outside Meadville.

Paine's report brought officers to the house, but Williams fled from the rear door and vanished in the woods.

News of the escape hummed through the town and immediately armed men were converging in an angry manhunt upon that section of the woods.

Three times during the day, Mitchell said, possemen had sighted the Negro and pot-shotted at him as he scurried across an opening in the trees. One report said he had been wounded.

Dramatic Race On

Arrival at Jackson of news of the incident made of it a dramatic race of the militia to arrive in time for effective action before the exhausted Negro, suffering a headwound from the Monday gun scrape, should fall into the hands of the posse. Meadville is about a hundred miles southwest of Jackson.

The mob action Monday at Columbia came after the slaying of J. C. Sanford at Prentiss on the same day. Sanford, a contractor and former marshal, according to Sheriff S. G. Magee, had attempted with two other men to arrest three Negroes suspected of running liquor through the town by blocking the road before their speeding car with another machine.

The Negroes' automobile was blocked, the sheriff said, but one fired through the window, killing Sanford. All escaped in the machine toward Columbia. One man was arrested there and jailed while the others fled to New Orleans, where police said they were held.

These incidents coming in coincidence threatened to begin the new year badly in the light of lynching studies and statistics of sociological groups on the heels of a year which saw less violence of this nature than almost any in American history.

A Tuskegee report released several days ago disclosed there had been but three lynchings in the nation in 1939 and but one in Mississippi during this period. This case happened near Wiggins.

Mother Describes 'Streamlined' Lynching Of Son In Mississippi

Everybody Knew About Murder of Edward Cook, But Nobody Would Talk—Sheriff Called Mother, Told Her to Come Get Boy's Body.

Courier 7-13-40

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 11.—Point was given here this week to the challenge of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of the statement just issued by Tuskegee Institute that there were no lynchings during the first six months of 1940 when Mrs. Nina Langston, this city, exposed the manner in which her son was brutally lynched in Tutwiler, Miss., March 21, 1940.

After the mob murder of her son, Edward Swiney Cook, 21, there were no arrests, no alarms, no newspaper stories, no public indignation. Cook was a victim of the new "streamlined" method of lynching—quick, quiet, effective.

Her slender frame shaking with sobs, Mrs. Langston this week broke the silence which has surrounded the lynching of her son and told the story for the benefit of Courier readers.

SHERIFF CALLS AND TELLS OF DEATH

"My son was slain March 20," she began, "but I knew nothing of it, being in Memphis, until the next day when a man who said he was Sheriff Chic Nelson, of Tutwiler, Miss., called me by long-distance and told me that my son had been killed.

"This man added that my son's body was in his undertaking establishment.

Mrs. Langston rushed to Tutwiler immediately.

"When I reached Tutwiler," Mrs. Langston continued, "I found that my son had been shot three times through the head and once through the left arm.

"I asked the sheriff why my boy had been killed.

"He replied:

"'The body was delivered to me by Deputies Clarence Flangers, Reuben Wells and Jesse Lay. Lay told me that they had carried Cook out Wednesday night to Beaver Dam to talk with him and that they had to kill him.'

"The sheriff added that another colored man had also been taken out, beaten up badly and forced to get out of town.

HAD NOT BEEN QUIZZED ABOUT CRIME

"Further questioning of the sheriff disclosed that young Cook had been taken in custody after the burglarizing of a restaurant, but Edward had not been accused of or questioned about that crime."

Of the 7,000 residents of Tutwiler, 3,500 are colored, but Mrs. Langston could find none among these who would discuss the lynching of her son. They were all afraid of "snitchers" and "stools."

Young Cook had lived in the town all his life and was well known, but only nine persons attended his funeral.

She consulted a white lawyer, but he declined to act unless she found the other man who was said to have been beaten.

Mrs. Langston has just recovered from an illness induced by the tragedy which befell her son and is preparing to have a new investigation launched.

6602

6602

2 Negroes Face Lynch Threat In Mississippi

(Special to the Daily Worker)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., May 17.—Two Negroes in jail in State Line, Mississippi, are threatened with lynching as the result of a fight in front of a country store in which two white men and a fleeing Negro were killed.

This grim story without names was revealed in a letter received by the Communist Party office in Birmingham today.

Several weeks ago, the letter said, a group of white hoodlums fired a volley of shots into a Negro dance hall. Last Saturday one of these white toughs "wanted to show off and beat up a Negro. He ran his victim about two blocks and left him for dead, slashed and cut, and the Negro died Tuesday, morning.

According to the letter, the white man "then goes back up town with his club and got mixed up again. He called to his father who was inside the crowded store to come to his help and in the struggle his father got so badly cut he died a few hours later. A third man also died, so the white boy's big fun has brought about three dead men and two Negroes in jail."

According to the letter, there are threats of lynching in certain circles although among a majority of the whites in the community, "it is common talk that the white boys are the starters and cause of the trouble."

Telegrams to Gov. Paul Johnson, Jackson, Miss., demanding protection and a fair trial are vitally important.

telegrams to the Governors and Senators involved.

The facts of this grim case without names came to light through a letter sent from the Birmingham Communist Party office to the Daily Worker. Several weeks ago a group of white hoodlums because extremely offensive to the Negro population of State Line. Last week, one of these toughs went beserk and killed an innocent Negro, wounded his father who died shortly afterwards and hurt another unidentified white man. As a result, two innocent Negro men were thrown into jail and there are threats of lynching although among a majority of the whites in the community, "it is common talk that the white boys are the starters of the cause and trouble," the letter pointed out.

ILD Demands Protectionfrom State Officials

Sharply Assail Threats and Violence Against Negro Population

The International Labor Defense, acting to save two Negroes now in jail in State Line, Mississippi, and threatened with lynching, sent a sharply worded telegram to Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama and Gov. Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi to act in behalf of the two innocent men.

The telegram reads as follows: "Three hundred thousand members and affiliates of the International Labor Defense hold you responsible for the protection of Negro people threatened with lynching on your state line. Evident lawlessness makes it imperative that you urge Senators from your state to press for passage of the Federal anti-lynching bill."

WIRE SENATORS

Senators John Bankhead and Lister Hill of Alabama and Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi also received copies of the telegram. The I. L. D. urges all mass organizations and progressives to act quickly by sending

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

MISSISSIPPI

6603

Mob Threat in Miss. As Solons Debate Lynch Bill

MEADEVILLE, Miss., Jan. 11—A posse of more than 100 farmers and national guardsmen combed the swamps Monday in search of two men, one known as "Red" and the other as "Oklahoma," sought in connection with the death of Hillard Hall and the wounding of Constable Phillip Shell and his brother, J. W. Shell.

Threat of lynchig hovers over the town as local citizens express the belief that the men may be subjected to mob "justice" if apprehended. The threat of mob violence, it is believed, will have its effect in pushing the anti-lynching bill through both houses of Congress.

The men are said to have fired on Hall and the Shell brothers when they tried to question them concerning numerous robberies.

Mississippi Posse Loses Trail

MEADVILLE, MISS., Jan. 5.—(AP)—A farmers' posse and National Guardsmen appeared tonight to have lost the trail of a negro known as "Red," who is wanted in connection with the killing of one white man and the wounding of two others.

Various clues were pursued during the day without result and bloodhounds used in the extensive search were withdrawn tonight. More than 100 armed farmers and 35 militiamen believed last night the suspect was surrounded in the Homochitto National Forest.

Maj. R. H. Jones, Jr., of the guard, said he received a report "Red" obtained clothing and food early today at a negro cabin in the lumber town of nearby Crosby where he visited a woman friend. A guard was posted near the house in expectation "Red" might return.

No terrorism has been evident among the many negroes living in this section but few have ventured far from their homes or on the highways.

The guard was ordered here yesterday by Gov. Hugh White to avert possible mob violence after a group of farmers surprised the negro in a cabin near Knoxville and fired at him as he fled to the forest. Some believed he was wounded.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

MISSISSIPPI

6604

Lynching Is Threatened In Mississippi

MEADEVILLE, Miss., Jan. 12—Local citizens expressed the belief that threats of mob violence here this week would have their effect in pushing the anti-lynch bill through both houses of Congress.

A posse of more than 100 farmers and national guardsmen combed the swamps Monday in search of two men, one known as "Red" and the other as "Oklahoma."

The men were being sought in connection with the death of Hillard Hall and the wounding of Constable Philip Shell and his brother, J. W. Shell, who are said to have been fired upon when they tried to question the men concerning numerous robberies.

Many express the belief that the men may be lynched if apprehended.

Suspected Killer Eludes Possemen

MEADVILLE, Miss.—(AP)—A Negro killer-suspect, known only as "Texas Red," believed surrounded in the Homochitto Forest Thursday night, appeared Saturday to have eluded possemen farmers and national guardsmen.

More than 100 armed farmers were in the posse at one time after one party flushed the Negro and fired at him, reporting they believed he was wounded. The search has shifted since then to the vicinity of Knoxville and Crosby.

Maj. R. H. Holmes, Jr., of the guard, said he learned the Negro spent Thursday night at the home of a Negro woman friend in Crosby, a sawmill town. He was also reported seen in various other places.

The Negro was wanted for the killing Monday night of Hillard Hall, 21, deputized constable, who with two others sought to question two Negro robbery suspects. Two other deputies were wounded slightly. The second Negro has not been heard from since the shooting.

POSSE LOSES TRAIL OF SLAYING SUSPECT

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 5.—(AP)—A farmers' posse and national guardsmen appeared tonight to have lost the trail of a negro known as "Red," who is wanted in connection with the killing of one white deputy and the wounding of two others. Bloodhounds used in the offensive search were withdrawn.

More than 100 armed farmers and 35 militiamen believed last night the suspect was surrounded in the Homochitto national forest. No terrorism has been evident among the many negroes living in this section but few have ventured far from their homes or on the highways. The officers were shot Monday when they went to question two robbery suspects.

MISSISSIPPI GUARDS REACH SLAYING SCENE

MEADVILLE, Miss., Jan. 4.—(AP)—A company of National Guardsmen reached the nearby community of Konxville tonight where a posse was seeking a negro slayer-suspect through the dense and gloomy Homochitto National Forest.

The negro, known only as "Red", and a stranger in the neighborhood, is wanted in the slaying of one white man and the wounding of two others Monday night.

Two Dixie Governors Asked To Halt Lynching

NEW YORK—The International Labor Defense, acting to save two men now in jail in State Line, Miss., and threatened with lynching, this week sent sharply worded telegrams to Gov. Frank Dixon of Alabama and Gov. Paul B. Johnson of Mississippi to afford protection to the men.

Senators John Bankhead and Lester Hill of Alabama and Senators Pat Harrison and Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi also received copies of the telegrams.

The facts of this grim case without names came to light through a letter sent from the Birmingham Communist Party office to the Daily Worker here.

According to the letter, white hoodlums several weeks ago started a campaign of terror against the Negro population of State Line.

Last week, the letter continued, one of these toughs went berserk and killed a Negro, wounded his father who died shortly afterwards and hurt another unidentified white man. The police, instead of arresting the white hoodlum, picked up two innocent Negroes and there are threats of a double lynching among a majority of whites in the community.

"It is common talk that the white boys are the starters of the case and trouble," the letter pointed out.

RACIAL FLAREUP CHECKED IN MISS.

McCOMB, Miss., July 11.—Administering of a beating by Alton Gatlin, middle-aged white farmer residing 10 miles west of here, to [redacted], colored boy employed by him, and retaliatory measures taken by the boy's kinsmen, has brought a flare-up of racial feeling in this section that had not abated Friday with the arrest of 4 of the 8 men suspected of taking part in the attack on the farmer, who was beaten so severely his recovery is regarded as doubtful.

The thrashing of the youth occurred Wednesday afternoon on the Gatlin plantation. Thursday, eight men in two automobiles went to the Gatlin home and finding him near his barn, set upon and beat him into insensibility. Members of his family found him there a short time later and brought him to a McComb hospital.

According to Chief of Police Dudley Brumfield, six of the eight men involved in the attack bore the name of Morris, the other two were also related to the boy who was thrashed, and all four arrested are Morrises. They have been removed to an undisclosed jail in a distant county for safekeeping.

Search was being continued late Friday for the other four, heavily armed volunteer posses of white men supplementing a force of county and city officers. Threats of summary vengeance were reported by members of volunteer posses if any of the fugitives sought should be captured.

LYNCHING - 1940
SIDELIGHTS

NEW JERSEY

6606

N. J. Police Chief 'Exiles' Sect

Special to the World-Telegram.

VENTNOR, N. J., Aug. 27.—Police Chief Maurice C. Mower today ordered out of town three women members of Jehovah's Witnesses, a religious cult. He also confiscated material they used for preselyting, including a record of a speech opposing the salute to the Flag and literature in which other religions were attacked.

Chief Mower said if the women returned they would be "arrested as disorderly persons, on the ground their activities incited to riot."

6607

Lynch Terror of Deep South Strikes Within Hour's Ride of New York City

Sunday Worker New York N.Y.

SEP 15 1940

By Lawrence Emery

Lynch terror of the deep South is on the march hardly a stone's throw from New York City.

In the little towns and villages of Nassau County, Long Island, brutal unprovoked violence against Negroes rages at this moment in an officially incited atmosphere of hatred and fear.

Inwood, less than an hour away from Union Square by the Long Island Railroad, is the concentration point for this wave of assaults and arrests. There, almost nightly, lynch law in the uniform of the Nassau County police drives Negroes from the streets, clubs men and women indiscriminately, throws innocent persons into jail, and terrorizes children of school age.

And in the wake of this "official" lawlessness is a wave of unofficial acts of depredation against Negro citizens, Negro homes and Negro places of business.

The police, by their drive, have created a situation in which men and women of both races fear to walk the streets at night.

Major victim of the terror to date is Ted Parks, 43 years old, who today lies suffering in a hospital cot in Mineola with a fractured jaw and concussion of the brain—injuries received after he had been arrested and "questioned" by police in connection with the murder last Friday night of Patrolman Charles H. Shaw.

Police later admitted that there was no shred of evidence against Parks.

How many more such victims there will be while the police are on their rampage no one knows. But everywhere one turns in Inwood there are prominent posters, in stores and shops, on walls, on telephone poles. They read as follows:

"$2,500 REWARD will be paid by the Police Officers and Patrolmen's Association of the County of Nassau, N. Y., for the arrest of a NEGRO who at or about 3:15 A. M., Friday, September 6, 1940, at Woodburgh, L. I., N. Y., murdered Patrolman Charles H. Shaw by shooting him in the face and chest with a shotgun at close range.

SEP 15 1940

"Any information furnished will be treated confidentially."

The reward notice is signed by the Honorable Edward J. Neary, District Attorney of Nassau County.

Two things are noteworthy about this poster. The word NEGRO is written in prominent capital letters. Police say the murderer was a Negro; there is no other proof of his race. Whatever the race of the killer, the police are now after Negroes.

Second noteworthy thing is the promise to pay a reward for arrest only. Rewards are usually paid for information leading to a conviction.

Sunday Worker New York N.Y.

In this manner the poster issued is a calculated provocation against the entire Negro people.

HOUSE RANSACKED

Mrs. Emma Parks, wife of the man injured at the hands of the police, lives in a three-room flat at 208 Merrill Place, Inwood, with her husband and daughter Rosalie, 13.

Yesterday she appeared weary and worn, and spoke lowly, almost diffidently, of the arrest of her husband at his junkyard in Far Rockaway last Tuesday, and the subsequent raid upon her home by police.

"They came here about 10:30 at night," she said. "I can't tell how many of them there were. They had my husband handcuffed, and his face and jaw was all swollen. The set him down in the kitchen, and made me sit in the bedroom, and they told us not to look at each other.

"Then they started ransacking the house. They turned everything upside down. They pulled out drawers and dumped clothes, everything, on the floor. They even spilled out all my kitchen flour on the floor."

Some of the police then took both Mr. and Mrs. Parks to Mineola where Mr. Parks was locked up. Mrs. Parks was questioned and released.

HOME A SHAMBLES

When she returned, she found that the police who had remained behind had made her home a shambles. "Come," she said in a tired voice, "I'll show you what they done."

Sunday Worker New York

"I've always tried to keep a clean house," Mrs. Parks said, "but it's a mess now."

The Parks have been married 23 years. They have lived in their present home for eight years. A friend of the family described Mr. Parks as "a fine man. I've known him for eight years, and he is a respectable, solid man who loves his home. I've never known him to do anything outside the law."

"He's always looked after his family,' said Mr. Parks. "He works hard. Maybe we don't have plenty, but he always kept us eating."

TOWN IS TENSE

Mrs. Parks had seen her husband that morning in the Mineola hospital. "He said he felt pretty good," she reported, "but he didn't look so good to me. He didn't talk much, though. They got a policeman by his bed—close enough to hear everything said."

SEP 15 1940

Outside in the town the tenseness could be felt. A block away from the Negro community in which Mrs. Parks lived a crowd of young white boys stood, ominously quiet and eyeing a similar group of Negro boys down the street.

On the corner of Wanser and Clinton Sts. is the Blue Moon Inn, one of the most popular gathering places in the Negro community.

A group of persons was standing on the corner. Suddenly two police scout cars turned into the short street from opposite ends, and both stopped at the corner.

Some in the group began to walk away. A tall Negro among them said: "What are you leaving for? What do you let them scare you for? Stay here. You ain't breaking no law."

SAYS WOMEN BEATEN

Some hesitated, but most walked on.

One of the officers was a sergeant. "Naw," he said in answer to my question, "there ain't been no trouble here. Everybody's behavin' themselves. All we do is tell 'em to move on. If they don't, we move 'em. Sure, there's been some arrested for disorderly conduct, but that's usual."

Inside the Blue Moon the silent but bitter indignation could be felt like a tangible thing.

Thomas Williams, the tall Negro, talked quietly, but his voice was strained. "They been pushing us around for a long time. Now they're beating and kicking our women. They're setting the whole town against us. Looks like they're out to kill somebody; they're trying hard enough."

"They come in here the other night," another Negro said. "I heard them argue with Robert Watson, he's the owner. I heard them say, 'Listen, we'll come in when we like. And we'll shoot first and ask questions later'."

SCHOOL BOY CLUBBED

The people in the inn cite endless examples of brutality.

Last Tuesday night two boys and three girls, all high school students, were standing on a corner. A scout car drew up and both officers jumped out, one with his gun drawn, the other with his club. "Get going, you G—— d—— n——," they said. One of the boys didn't move fast enough, and was clubbed.

Three persons told how on Saturday night a man they know only as Louie, very small and very old, was clubbed because he didn't jump when he was told to move.

SEP 15 1940

It is estimated that nearly 2,000 Negroes live in Inwood. Despite the terror, despite the provocations against them, they are determined to defend their rights and to protect themselves.

Last Thursday a delegation of 17 young men from the West End Republican Club and the Dunbar Civic Association went to Mineola where they presented to police authorities a written demand for protection.

Charles Bibbs, who was one of the delegation, reports that authorities assured them that they will "cooperate in preserving order."

"But," said Bibbs, "we'll have to see what that means."

"Yeah," said one, "we'll see what that means. This is Nassau County. This is a different world. This isn't in the United States."

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

NORTH CAROLINA

6608

North Carolina Mob Threatens New Lynching

Hoodlums Force Negro Townsmen Off Streets Over Police Slaying

DUNN, N. C., Feb. 19.—Negroes remained in their homes today as a result of a reign of terror instituted against them growing out of the death of a policeman in a lawless raid on a Negro cafe.

Officer Martin Underwood was allegedly struck by a thrown brick when he raided the cafe last Sunday. He died. Seventy-five Negroes were illegally rounded up and arrested, and three were held on murder charges. Extra policemen patrolled the Negro section in an effort to intimidate the Negro people.

Mayor Herbert B. Tayor admitted that a "mob of hoodlums" from Roseboro, Underwood's home town, had threatened to "get" the Negro who allegedly kiled the officer.

Negroes have been subjected to molestation for a week here. Bud Grady, Dave Lilly and Buster Hargrove, charged with the slaying, were taken to the Lillington jail, 17 miles away.

This comes on the heels of another reign of lynch terror against the Negro people in Snow Hill, Md., on the Maryland Eastern Shore, last week.

Raleigh, N. C., News & Observer
February 19, 1940

Racial Violence at Dunn Threatens After Killing

Several Negroes Reportedly Beaten by Terrorists; Extra Cops Called In

By HOOVER ADAMS.

Dunn, Feb. 18.—Fifteen extra officers patrolled this city today in an effort to prevent racial violence which has threatened since the slaying of Policeman Martin Underwood in a riot here last Sunday night.

No fatalities had been reported tonight, although the city was tense as reports of threatened disorder and mob organization were repeatedly heard.

Outside Aid.

As the result of one of the worst crime waves in the history of the town, Mayor Herbert B. Taylor and Police Commissioner Thomas R. Hood last night summoned additional aid, and the force was more than tripled.

"We hope there will be no general outbreak," said Mayor Taylor in a statement tonight, "but we intend to be prepared to the limit. "Mob violence has never ruled in our town," he added, "and officials are determined that law and order will continue to prevail at any cost."

Numerous fights between white residents and Negroes were reported to police headquarters and officials frankly admitted they feared lives would be lost unless the situation was relieved.

Police revealed today that since the killing of Underwood by Negroes at a cafe here Sunday night, an organized band of white hoodlums, bent on revenge, have attacked several Negroes of the town, and have molested members of that race in other respects.

Seven In Jail.

Meanwhile, officers were holding seven Negroes—three principals and four material witnesses—in the Lillington jail in connection with the murder of Officer Underwood. Judge Duncan C. Wilson last night found probable cause against Dave Lilly, Bud Grady and Buster Hargrove after hearing 20 witnesses. Held as material witnesses were: Hazel Lewis, John Chance, James Williams and Buster Williams. None was permitted bond, Judge Wilson expressing the opinion that the witnesses would be safer in jail than at large.

Policeman D. W. Smith, who was with Underwood when he was killed, told how they went to a Negro cafe to quell a disturbance and were attacked by a mob of Negroes as they sought to make an arrest. Underwood was hit in the head by a blunt instrument—probably a brick bat or an axe, Smith said.

Plot Thwarted.

A plot to kill a local policeman was reputedly uncovered. Police declined to comment. Burning of the Negro cafe where the killing occurred has been declared a case of arson, and numerous minor incidents were reported.

Only an occasional Negro was seen on the streets today and delivery service in the city was practically discontinued last night as Negro carriers expressed fear for their lives.

Despite extra help, local officers were forced to work overtime, all of them heavily armed, and officials stood by to summon additional help if needed. Eight State Highway Patrolmen arrived on the scene last night. Sheriff W. E. Salmon assigned three deputies to the town and directed their activities personally. Several policemen from Fayetteville were on duty, in addition to those from Dunn, Lillington and Erwin and several county constables.

Chief of Police G. A. Jackson gave orders that no officer answer a call alone. Patrol cars lined the streets in strategic points, plainclothes officers were secreted in some of the "trouble spots," and every man on duty was prepared for action.

Mayor Taylor and Commissioner Hood instructed the force to use every precaution and discretion, "but don't take any chances."

The Mayor further declared that the city would not stand for the molestation of any citizen, regardless of color, and said any offender caught would be severely prosecuted and dealt with.

"I took an oath to uphold the law and no faction or group of lawless hoodlums will be allowed to step out of the traces," he declared.

It was reported that men from Roseboro, Underwood's former home, a group from the notorious "Easy Street" section of Sampson County and others came to town late last night prepared to take matters in their own hands, but no attempt was made after arrival of authorities. Police prevented gatherings of any sort on the street.

Scores of Negroes, some of them respectable citizens, reportedly have been attacked by the young hoodlums. Among these were a church janitor and a government employee. One reported he was robbed.

Older citizens declared they could recall no other instance comparable to the situation in the city's history.

Mayor Taylor said extra police help would be retained as long as authorities considered danger of an outbreak existed. City Commissioners Earl Westbrook, Joe Creel and Walter Jones backed the Mayor in his stand.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Advance
November 15, 1940

White Men Are Tried For Mobbing of Negro

Windsor, Nov. 15.—A sordid tale of race hatred in which whites were pitted against blacks and featuring perjury and brow-beating of witnesses was disclosed here Thursday in the trial of five white men accused of conspiracy to mob and lynch a Negro at the Bloody Cross section near Merry Hill on the night of September 21.

Aftermath of the case promises to be the closing of the notorious filling stations and dance halls at Bloody Cross.

The young men are George Daniels, George Miller, John Nixon, J. P. White and Herman Daniels, charged on two different counts. Indictments were returned by the grand jury charging them with assault with intent to kill John Warren, Negro, and conspiracy to mob, lynch and murder Warren.

A bench warrant was issued for Cleveland Lee during the trial for subordination of perjury growing out of the case and he was held under $1000 bond. He was accused of hitting Allen Outlaw, when he threatened to disclose facts in the case.

The trial started shortly before noon Thursday. First to testify for the State was John Warren. He testified he had started home from the service station near Merry Hill operated by Vernon Lee at the crossroads called Bloody Cross.

A car drove up, and George Daniels got out flourishing a shotgun. He said Daniels told him to get in the car, that they were going to carry him off and kill him. In the car were the Daniels men, Nixon and Miller, he said.

Then the car was driven up a lonely woods path near Merry Hill, where the Negro was taken from the car and beaten.

Ordered to Dance

Here he was ordered to dance and as he was slow to obey, one of the men fired a gun under his feet, he said. Then he was made to lie down while the men threatened to drive the car over his neck. Here John Nixon, in the rear seat of the car, begged the others not to drive the car over him, Warren stated.

Going back to the service station shortly before daylight, White was taken into the car, and they drove to the house of Charlie Warren, Negro living nearby, and whose son, Cecil, George Daniels suspected of cutting him with a knife earlier in the evening. Charlie refused to let them enter his house, and John was put out of the car at Ashland church.

Mary Roberson and Sophie Leary, Negro women, testified they saw the men force Warren into their car at the point of a gun, and that later they saw him with the white men at Charlie Warren's place and that he was then spattered with blood.

First witness for the defense was George Miller. He said that he, Herman Daniels, Nixon and White returned from Edenton around midnight and stopped at Bloody Cross. Here they saw Warren drunk, his face bleeding from a cut, evidently received when he fell upon the ground. Warren had previously admitted that he had been drinking and had lain asleep under a tree near Lee's station.

He said the five defendants took George Daniels to Colerain to have his head treated after he had been cut with a knife. Returning, they met John Warren, who entered their car willingly in order to show them where Daniels' suspected assailant lived.

He said they kept John in the car with them as they sat at the station and waited for "the law" to arrive, and that they released the Negro without harming him.

Cecil Warren, incidentally, is serving four months at the county farm for cutting Daniels.

Says Gun Broken

Miller admitted there was a shotgun in the car, but said he had placed it in the car to take to a repair man, and that it was broken at the time in question.

Miller said the white men remained in Lee's station from about 12:30 until 2 a.m. because a gang of Negroes would not let them out.

The other defendants testified to substantially the same thing.

During the Thursday night session of court, Constable J. M. Keeter of Merry Hill said Nixon had told him that the men had beat the Negro and that Nixon had lain in the car to keep from seeing the men kill the Negro. Nixon denied this on the stand.

Through their attorney, J. A. Pritchett, the men pleaded guilty to assault with intent to kill and conspiracy to assault.

All were sentenced to six months on the roads on the assault charge and two years on the conspiracy charge. White and Nixon were placed on probation and their entire sentences suspended for five years. The sentences as to the others were suspended after expiration of their six-months terms.

Frank Daniels, brother of George, was ordered held in custody for accosting Constable Keeter during the night recess and accusing him of trying to send the boys to the penitentiary.

Judge Burgwyn said he would have the filling stations at Bloody Cross closed.

Witnesses testified that a mob of about 50 Negroes had kept white men shut up in a service station at Bloody Cross shortly before the assault on Warren, some of the Negroes being armed with shotguns. One of them, Ed Leary, was ordered held in custody.

Other witnesses said whites and blacks had been dancing on the floor there at the same time.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

S.C.

6669

Orangeburg, S. C., Times & Demo.
April 29, 1940

A "LYNCHING" IN NEW YORK.

In the New York Times of Sunday we read a headline, "Lynching Attempt Charged to Four Men," and, strange to say, the news related to the effort of the men to hang another man, over a labor dispute, in the New York metropolitan area.

The use of the word "lynching" has heretofore been reserved for outlawry in the Southern States by most northern newspapers. They invented the "gang" killings to describe the taking of law into the hands of a few people in their section.

The truth of the matter is that more people are lynched in the New York and Chicago metropolitan areas in a given year than in the entire South. In fact, the gangsters that ravaged our largest cities are, in consideration of the efficient police forces available, constitute the most disgraceful phase of our criminal record.

Probe of Flogging By Hooded Men Still On

Amsterdam News - 8-3-40

SPARTANBURG, S. C. (ANP)—Sheriff Sam M. Henry is still probing the flogging of four Negroes by a hooded band of 20 men a week ago. There have been no arrests but authorities are continuing the check of the license numbers of the cars that carried the colored men to a deep thicket, where they were lashed severely.

The victims, four brothers, Ernest, L. P. James and Benny Bomar, said that they were carried from their homes and beaten by the hooded band after they failed to divulge the whereabouts of a fifth brother, the object of the klan search. This fifth brother had been fined a short time previous for "sassing" a white woman.

The governor has as yet issued no statement denouncing this lashing as he did some months ago when a white man was whipped in Anderson. As yet there has been no indication of an investigation by the state detectives as was done in the Anderson flogging.

It is generally believed that the authorities have some definite evidence as to the identity of the masked floggers and warrants may be issued shortly for their arrest.

'Outrageous' Say Dixie Veniremen

Amsterdam News - 8-10-40

SPARTANBURG, S. C.—The Spartanburg grand jury termed the flogging of four innocent Negroes here last week as "outrageous." The grand jury said in part in its presentment "We have no place in our community for this kind of lawlessness. It is never justifiable for hooded and robed men to take the law into their hands."

The jury urged citizens of the county to cooperate with the police "in an effort to bring to justice that band of hooded and robed men who, in the night time took advantage of innocent Negroes and beat them unmercifully."

Shortly after the presentment of the grand jury, circulars appeared on the street here defending the action of the floggers. Captioned in huge letters, the circulars mentioned the alleged attack of a white girl by a young Negro about a week ago. In this case, in no way connected with the flogging of the four Ngroes, the girl stated that she was not harmed and a medical examination later revealed that she was unharmed.

The usual klan method when the authorities are close on their trail was evidenced in this case. A Negro is usually falsely accused of rape to distract attention from their own crime and to justify their action. The action of the grand jury has undoubtedly created fear in the klan ranks. For the first time here a grand jury has pledged to bring to justice hooded night riding bands.

FIVE WHITES HELD IN FLOGGING CASES IN SO. CAROLINA

Negro Labor Press - 8-31-40

SPARTENBURG, S. C. (ANP)—Five [illegible] held under $2,500 bonds each last week to await preliminary hearings on charges that they donned masks and disguise on July 13, and flogged four Negro tenant farmers on the Sam Shoddy farm near here.

The five, J. George Sherbert, 46; Earl Porter, 34; Ed Watson, 27 and Anderson Bennett, 32, were arrested after a four-week investigation. The reported victims said they were dragged from their homes by their assailants, carried several miles and flogged with a leather strap.

5 WHITES HELD FOR WHIPPING

Chicago Bee - 8-31-40

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Aug. 29—(ANP)—Five white men were placed under $2,500 bonds each last week to await preliminary hearings on charges that they donned masks and disguises on July 13 and flogged four Negro tenant farmers on the Sam Snoddy farm near here.

The five, J. George Sherbert, 46, Earl Porter, 34, Ed Watson, 27, and Andrew Bennett, 32, were arrested after a four week investigation. The reported victims said they were dragged from their homes by their assailants, carried several miles and flogged with a leather strap.

LYNCHING - 1940
SIDELIGHTS

SOUTH CAROLINA

6610

Five Whites Under Bonds In Floggings

St Louis Argus
St Louis Mo
8-30-40

SPARTANBURG, S. C., (ANP).—Five white men were placed under $2,500 bonds each last week to await preliminary hearings on charges that they donned masks and disguises on July 13 and flogged four Negro tenant farmers on the Sam Snoddy farm near here.

The five, J. George Sherbert, 46, Earl Porter, 34, Ed Watson, 27, and Andrew Bennett, 32, were arrested after a four-week investigation. The reported victims said they were dragged from their homes by their assailants, carried several miles and flogged with a leather strap.

WHITE FLOGGERS

Nashville Globe and Independent
August 30, 1940

FIVE VIGILANTES HELD IN SOUTH CAROLINA

SPARTANBURG, S. C. Aug 29 (ANP)—Five whites men were placed under $2,500 bonds each last week to await preliminary hearings on charges that they donned masks and disguises on July 13 and flogged four Negro tenant farmers on the Sam Snoddy farm near here.

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G-MEN PROBING TENNESSEE "LYNCHING"

Sec'y White Interviews Witnesses

Reveal Slaying Followed Attempt To Secure Ballot

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—

A 'new style' lynching and old-fashioned prejudice received a simultaneous airing last week with the press expose of condtions existing in Brownville, Tenn. just about sixty miles from Memphis, where one colored man had been killed, almost a dozen others ordered to 'leave town' and hundreds of others are still there confused and frightened, not knowing what is liable to happen at any time.

This picture was vividly drawn last Friday night as Walter White, famous advocate of a Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, sat in a Memphis home, and reviewed the situation with one of the victims, several newspaper reporters, and four or five interested persons.

Mr. White was in Memphis to speak at the Methodist Youth Conference which met last week. He had already heard something of the Brownsville case before coming here. Friday night he was able to obtain first-hand information.

The noter reformer had learned in Washington at the offices of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, an organization of which he is secretary that several leading Negroes of Brownsville had been denied the right to register themselves (by registering) to vote in the coming presidential election, and had been threatened with voilence if they failed to cease their efforts. He got this information from Rev. Buster Walker, pastor of a Church of God In Christ congregation in Brownsville.

According to Rev. Walker's report to Mr. White and other N. A. C. P. members in Washington, the trouble started in May when he (Rev. Walker), John Gaines, Elisha Davis, Taylor Newbern, and John Luster went to a city official and requested the right to register to vote. (Negroes have not voted in Brownsville in fifty-six years).

After being shunted from one high-ranking Haywood County official to another Walker reported that he began to recieve threats. He alleged that the first threat came from a white deputy, one T. Bolden, who warned him not to encourage the Negroes to vote. Soon after, other members of the group interested in voting were threatened. The situation soon reached the point where groups of white men began calling on individual Negroes demanding to know if they were members of the N. A. A. C. P. (the organization which they apparently felt was responsible for this new and 'strange' desire among the Brownsville colored people).

Among the men visited and questioned by the white men, many of whom were indentified as business men or public officials, were Elisha Davis, colored owner of a filling station in Brownsville, Tommy Davis, his brother and porter at a Brownsville Theater, Elbert Williams, employee of the Sunshine Laundry there, and others.

ELBERT WILLIAMS KILLED

Elisha Davis was the man who conferred with Walter White here last Friday night. He had come to Memphis from Jackson, Tenn. with a friend, after having been ordered 'never to come back to Brownsville.' He said he had been taken out and questioned by two carloads of white men. They wanted to know if he was a member of the NAACP. He admitted membership. He said they did not attack him physically, but were very abusive in their language. He was ordered to leave town. He left his business, the filling station which he had been operating for five years; his family, wife and seven children, ranging in ages from eight months to twelve years. He does not know what has become of them although there are reports that his wife and children are in vicinity of Dyersburg.

Davis was asked about the slaying of Elbert Williams, laundry employee and one of the original group seeking to vote. He stated that Williams and his (Davis) brother Tommy were picked up one night by a group of white men, supposedly to jail. His brother remained among the city officials, and taken turned and left town immediately. But Williams' body was found several days later in the Hatchie River, bearing evidence of violence. Davis did not know why his brother was permitted to escape. He said Williams was a member of the NAACP. He did not have any idea why Williams was killed. He dismissed the suggestion that Williams might have been abusive or violently resentful to the questioning he might have undergone.

NAMES WHITE MEN IN MOB

Davis called the names of some of the white men who came to his home at night and after questioning him ordered him to get out of the town and stay. He said among them were 'Tip' Hunter, sheriff-elect and night marshall of Haywood County.

Charles Ried, Brownsville policeman, Clyde Hopkins, highway commissioner of Haywood County, Ed Lee, Milton Osborne, Bob Dye, P. G. Fairy laundry employee, Will Mann, Albert Dixon, bank employee, Elliot Hays, business man and others.

Rev. Walker whose whereabouts are not definitely known now since his escape from Brownsville, submitted a report of what he knows to the Washington office of the NAACP. Mr. White showed a press release which that office has prepared containing Walker's statement. In it the preacher named the Brownsville officials and business men whom he had consulted relative to the matter of voting. He also gave an account of their individual reactions to the matter. Mayor Bomer, of Brownsville was repored as sympathetic, but admitted powerless to do anything about the situation.

In a statement to the white press last week Mayor Bomer expressed the conviction that Brownsville is shocked over the entire affair, and this lynching, if that is what happened to the Negro, is deeply regretted by the majority of our town—the action of the small group reported to be involved in the untimely occurence does in no way express the sentiment or moral outlook of the city as a whole."

NEGROES SUSPICIOUS

This expression or the mayor's, however is evidently taken with a 'grain of salt' by many of the colored folk of Brownsville, according to reports of many witnesses, some of whom have been to Brownsville, or passed through since the disturbance arose.

Rev. H. B. Gibson, Memphis minister, pastor of the Centenary Church, who was among the first to learn of Williams' death, and went to Brownsville on his own initiative to investigate, observed that fear and excitement are among the colored residents of the little town. White men are reported to be milling about the main streets with guns showing from their pockets, and with an evident desire for trouble. Negro tourists passing through the town report being stopped and questioned by groups of white men. In the case of Rev. B. Julian Smith Colored Methodist Episcopal official stationed at Jackson, Tenn. it is reported that his car was stopped while he was enroute to last week's youth conference here, and some packages he was carrying searched.

Dozens of Brownsville colored residents have come to Memphis and have gone to other places to stay with relatives. Many are not expected to return to their homes, jobs, or businesses in Brownsville.

MR. WHITE SOCIALISTS AID

Mr. White disclosed last Friday night that he had consulted with United States District Attorney William McClanahan, here in Memphis, Friday during the day. He stated that the District Attorney told him that he had sent an investigator to Brownsville sometimes previously, but that no evidence of violation of a Federal

Grand Jury Reports No Clue In Lynching

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—Without taking any action, a special Grand Jury has concluded its investigation into the mysterious death of Everett Williams, 33-year-old Negro, reported "lynching" victim.

The jury reported it made "a careful and earnest investigation, examining people from all walks of life, and no evidence has been brought out that might place suspicion on anyone as having part in the case."

Williams' body was found last June in Hatchie River swamps.

At an interracial meeting shortly after that, Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Relations, said she had been informed a Brownsville Negro had been "quietly taken out and flogged to death because of his interest in the advancement of Negro affairs.

Refugee From Terror In Brownsville, Tennessee Appeals For Aid

Plaindealer
7-12-40

N.A.A.C.P. Asks Fund for Father of Seven Children, Driven Out of Town by Mob, and Others, in Fight for Voting Rights

Kansas City, Kansas

NEW YORK, N. Y.—An appeal to the country for help for Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tennessee, is being answered by a country-wide campaign for funds by the NAACP.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee (where he is also being threatened with violence, is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June. The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the NAACP, resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 presidential elections.

When the Reverend Buster Walker, 55, president of the Brownsville NAACP, and several others presented themselves before the proper official for registration they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a neck-tie party".

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mr. Davis's brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the NAACP, was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

The NAACP is calling on all citizens to contribute to a fund for the relief of the Brownsville exiles and for the purpose of attacking the whole situation to the end that colored citizens may return to their homes, vote in the 1940 elections, and pursue their normal lives.

In his letter to the NAACP Elisha Davis wrote:

"I gambled everything, my home, my business, my family (wife and children) in order to prove to those people in Brownsville that the NAACP was all right. At present I am separated from my family. I am not making any money. I do not feel secure in the least. After having told all in this case, my life here, even in this town, is constantly threatened."

The whole Brownsville, Tennessee situation has been placed in the hands of the United States Department of Justice by the NAACP. Dean William Hastie, chairman of the NAACP legal committee has conferred with O. John Rogge, Assistant U. S. Attorney General: Walter White NAACP secretary, has conferred with William McClanahan, U. S. Attorney at Memphis. Mr. White made a trip to Tennessee during which he gathered first-hand information on the Brownsville case.

The Brownsville situation, from beginning to end, is a story of the most open, flagrant and unashamed exercise of mob terror and lynching that has come to light in many years.

It has been shown conclusively that Brownsville officials, including a night marshal and candidate for sheriff, a night policeman, a county highway commissioner and others were among the leaders of the mob which drove Brownsville NAACP leaders from town.

Elisha Davis was waked in the middle of the night, forced to dress at the point of a pistol, and his wife was told "You will never see this black . . . again. We are going to kill him."

Davis was taken to a river bottom about six miles from town and was asked about the purposes of the NAACP. He was threatened with death unless he told the names of the members of the branch. Finally, he was released and was told to leave the county and "never show his face there again". His wife and 7 children are at the mercy of the hoodlums in Brownsville.

At the recent N. A. A. C. P. conference in Philadelphia, Pa., outraged delegates contributed spontaneously the sum of $155 after the Rev. Buster Walker had told a graphic story of the terror in Brownsville.

The present fund being raised by the NAACP is for the purpose not only of individual relief for the families of terrorized Brownsville citizens but to carry on the fight to clean up the Tennessee town so that colored people may enjoy the rights to which they are entitled as citizens.

Every pressure is being brought to bear on the federal and state governments to see that these people are restored in safety to their rights.

Meanwhile Brownsville is trying to block every effore to get at the trouble. Officers are posted on highways leading into town and are turning back all colored people who do not live in Brownsville.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the NAACP 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

Victim Was Arrested For Questioning In Minor Crime, Fled

Call

Tennessee Has Second Lynching of Year When Roosevelt Jones Is Killed Following Three-State Hunt

8-9-40
Kansas City, Mo.

DYERSBURG, Tenn.—A 26-year-old Negro of Arkansas was tracked down and shot to death by a Tennessee posse near here last week to give Tennessee its second lynching for 1940.

Identified as Roosevelt Jones, the victim had been hunted for two days by several hundred armed citizens in three states—Missouri, Arkansas and Tennessee.

Jones was arrested near Blytheville, Ark., for QUESTIONING in connection with a MINOR theft.

Jones and a Negro woman companion were riding down Highway 61 near Yarbro, Ark., in an old car when an Arkansas state policeman, Eddie B. David., stopped them. David had been warned to look out for a Negro in an old car as the result of the theft of some money from a Negro at Osceola the day before.

Stopping Jones' car, David ordered the man to accompany him back to Blytheville. Jones got into the front seat of the officer's car.

As the car approached Yarbro, Jones is said to have seized the officer's gun lying in the front seat beside David and escaped. Before fleeing, he shot the officer in the hand.

Jones Shoots Officers

Jones fired three shots, one bullet entering the officer's left hand at the lower part of the thumb. The second entered the seat cushion and the third struck the windshield of the car.

Jones escaped through a corn field.

A posse was organized and armed men surrounded 200 acres where Jones was believed to be in hiding.

A Missouri marshal, Abner Ashcraft of Cooter, Mo., said that a man he knew as Roosevelt Jones approached him in front of his home and drew a gun. "'I'm the man you're looking for,' Ashcraft said Jones said, 'but you're not going to get me.'"

Ashcraft said he tried to arrest Jones but that he fled through the field.

Arkansas and Missouri officers hunted for Jones all day but were unable to find him. Later, they heard that Jones had crossed the Mississippi river with a fisherman into Tennessee.

8-9-40

Organizes Posse

Sheriff W. C. Williamson organized a posse of Tennesseans who overtook Jones between Finley, Tenn., and Dyersburg.

A volley of shots struck Jones when officers said he reached for a pistol.

There is some doubt as to whether the man shot down in Tennessee is the same man who shot the Arkansas officer in the hand. Tracked through three states, it is probable that the guilty man escaped and that an innocent man lost his life.

The slaying of Jones in Tennessee is the second lynching of that state in 1940.

In June, Elbert Williams, leader of the N.A.A.C.P. in Brownsville, Tenn., was "quietly lynched" by drowning. His body was found in a river shortly after he had led a campaign for the right of Negroes to vote.

...VER BODY OF NAACP LEADER FROM TENN. RIVER

Brownsville Whites Begin Campaign Of Terrorism To Prevent Voting

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — The body of Elbert Williams, one of the leaders in the local NAACP-sponsored campaign to get Negro citizens here to vote was fished up from a nearby river Sunday, June 23rd.

This was the first death of a Negro (regarded by citizens as an off-the-record lynching) at the hands of whites here since white mobbists began terrorizing Negroes when the vote campaign started here several months ago.

The National office of the NAACP announced Saturday that the Rev. Buster Walker, president of the local branch of the association, who has been active in the leadership of the voting campaign, was scheduled to hold a conference in Washington June 24th with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge, relative to a Justice Department investigation of the Brownsville situation. The Rev. Mr. Walker was accompanied by Dean William H. Hastie, chairman of the national NAACP legal committee, and Leon A. Ransom, also of the legal committee.

Williams, along with the Rev. Mr. Walker, and Elisha Davis, led a group of NAACP members to the Court House in Brownsville to qualify to vote in the coming election. This action so incensed local whites that they forced the three men to leave town. Since that time more than seven other Negroes have been forced to flee.

Because Negroes comprise three-fourths of the 19,000 population of Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood County, Tennessee, whites have tried to discourage them from voting. They have discharged Negroes from jobs, refused credit in local banks to all known Negro NAACP members, threatened to discontinue Negro teachers in their jobs, and have been reported to have opened mail sent from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to officials of the local branch.

'FLOGGING' DEATH WILL BE PROBED

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., 26—(AP)—A special session of the Hayward County Grand Jury will investigate the unexplained death of Everett Williams, 33, Negro, Sheriff R. C. Hawkins said today.

Sheriff Hawkins said he had conferred with Circuit Judge W. W. Bond and that legal steps had been started to impanel the jury. He said he did not know exactly when the jury would convene.

At a Memphis interracial relations meeting, a speaker said she had been told a Brownsville Negro had been "quietly taken out and flogged to death" because of his interest in Negro affairs. The speaker, Mrs. Jesse Daniel Ames, of Atlanta, field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Relations, referred to the case as a new "style" of lynching which escaped wide notice because of its elimination of a "Roman holiday" atmosphere.

Williams' body was found Sunday in Hatchie River swamps. A coroner's jury said it believed the Negro came to his death "by violence at the hands of unknown parties." He had been missing since Thursday, the sheriff said he had been told.

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Victim of Mob Action Is in Need

Father of Seven Driven Out of Town for Demanding Rights

NEW YORK.—An appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tenn., is being answered by a country-wide campaign for funds by the N. A. A. C. P.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee (where he is also being threatened with violence), is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June.

The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the N. A. A. C. P., resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 presidential elections.

When the Reverend Buster Walker, 55, president of the Brownsville N.A.A.C.P., and several others presented themselves before the proper official for registration they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a necktie party."

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mr. Davis's brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the N.A.A.C.P. was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

Calling for Funds

The N.A.A.C.P. is calling on all citizens to contribute to a fund for the relief of the Brownsville exiles and for the purpose of attacking the whole situation to the end that colored citizens may return to their homes, vote in the 1940 elections, and pursue their normal lives.

In his letter to the N.A.A.C.P. Elisha Davis wrote:

"I gambled everything, my home, my business, my life, my family (wife and children) in order to prove to those people in Brownsville that the N. A. A. C. P. was all right. At present I am separated from my family. I am not making any money. I do not feel secure in the least. After having told all in this case, my life here, even in this town, is constantly threatened."

The whole Brownsville, Tenn. situation has been placed in the hands of the United States department of justice by the N. A. A. C. P. Dean William Hastie, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P. legal committee, has conferred with O. John Rogge, assistant U. S. attorney general; Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, has conferred with William McClanahan, U. S. attorney at Memphis. Mr. White made a trip to Tennessee during which he gathered first-hand information on the Brownsville case.

The Brownsville situation, from beginning to end, is a story of the most open, flagrant, and unashamed exercise of mob terror and lynching that has come to light in many years.

Officials Lead Mob

It has been shown conclusively that Brownsville officials, including a night marshal and candidate for sheriff, a night policeman, a county highway commissioner, and others were among the leaders of the mob which drove Brownsville N. A. A. C. P. leaders from town.

Elisha Davis was waked in the middle of the night, forced to dress at the point of a pistol, and his wife was told "You will never see this black...again. We are going to kill him."

Davis was taken to a river bottom about six miles from town and was asked about the purposes of the N.A.A.C.P. He was threatened with death unless he told the names of the members of the branch. Finally, he was released and told to leave the country and "never show his face here again. His wife and 7 children are at the mercy of the goodlums in Brownsville.

At the recent N.A.A.C.P. conference in Philadelphia, Pa., outraged delegates contributed spontaneously the sum of $155 after the Rev. Buster Walker had told a graphic story of the terror in Brownsville.

Send Funds to N.A.A.C.P.

The present fund being raised by the N.A.A.C.P. is for the purpose not only of individual relief for the families of [illegible] Brownsville citizens but to carry on the fight to clean up the Tennessee town so that colored people may enjoy the rights to which they are entitled as citizens.

Every pressure is being brought to bear on the federal and state governments to see that these people are restored in safety to their rights.

Meanwhile Brownsville is trying to block every effort to get at the trouble. Officers are posted on the highways leading into town and ar turning back all colored people who do not live in Brownsville.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the N.A.A.C.P., 69 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

Plaindealer News Story Gets Action On Tennessee Lynching

Plaindealer 7-5-40

Dixie Cops Search All Negro Tourists Passing through Brownsville, "Recent Lynch Town"; Report G-Men Spotted in Town

Kansas City, Kansas

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — It was reported here this week that representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are in Brownsville or will arrive soon to investigate the brutal killing of Elbert Williams, courageous worker in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This report was circulated following telegrams sent to the Governor of Tennessee and the United States Department of Justice by the National Youth Conference which convened here last week asking that a federal investigation be made, and that ample protection be given the citizens.

Reports were also made here this week by numerous tourists traveling from points beyond Brownsville to Memphis using the highway passing through Brownsville that they were stopped and searched and bulldozed by men displaying deputy sheriff badges and flashing guns.

The news of the lynching which appeared in last week's issue of the Plaindealer was shocking to the citizens of the State of Tennessee, both white and black, because news of the lynching was suppressed and withheld and any Negroes found giving out information were threatened and driven out of town and were running a bad risk for their safety. Representatives from the daily newspapers here interviewed Plaindealer representatives at the office, 336 Butler street, seeking information as to how the Plaindealer was able to get the lowdown of the off-the-record lynching of a Negro at the hands of whites since the mobbists began terrorizing when the vote campaign started at

Ripley, Tenn. Enterprise
July 5, 1940

INVESTIGATE NEGRO'S DEATH

Action in connection with the death of Everett Williams, 33-year-old Brownsville negro, whose body was found in the Hatchie River June 23, awaits completion of a Federal inquiry.

United States District Attorney William McClanahan, who ordered the probe last week after he talked with Walter White, negro secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said no action will be taken until he receives a report, possibly some time this week.

Reports from Brownsville are that Williams is believed to have been killed by a group of unidentified men following recent attempts of some Brownsville negroes to arrange to vote in the coming presidential election.

DEMOCRACY IN BROWNSVILLE, TENN.

Courier

While President Roosevelt has been expressing his indignation over aggression in Europe and Asia, and Secretary of State Hull has been endeavoring to organize hemisphere resistance against the onward march of totalitarianism, democracy has been taking a severe beating in the little town of Brownsville, in Secretary Hull's native Tennessee.

8-10-40

The "trouble" started in Brownsville, when Negroes urged by the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, inquired about their right to vote in the coming November presidential election.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

The "trouble" got well under way when a half-dozen colored citizens were driven from their homes by mobs and 33-year-old Elbert Williams was lynched for wanting some of the rights and privileges of United States citizenship.

The "trouble" still exists in Brownsville, because the N.A.A.C.P. branch dares not hold a meeting, despite constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and assembly.

Among those colored citizens driven from Brownsville, Tenn., is a preacher of the Gospel, Reverend Buster Walker.

Another Brownsville citizen who quails in fear in a secret hiding place in another town, is an active N.A.A.C.P. member, Mr. Elisha Davis, who owned and operated a filling station until the mob drove him away from his ill wife and seven children.

The "trouble" in Brownsville also prevents any Negro newspaper from being sold there, and no strange Negroes are permitted to remain in the city.

Owing to this "trouble" which has reduced many of the affected Negro families to want, the national office of the N.A.A.C.P. in New York is appealing for funds for the relief of these refugees who are in just as much need of help and protection as any of the refugees in Holland, Belgium, France, China, Poland or Ethiopia.

There is nothing very unusual about this picture of democracy in Brownsville, in Mr. Cordell Hull's home State, especially to those who recall the fiendish lynchings in Memphis and Dyersburg.

Nor is there anything unusual in the silence of President Roosevelt and Secretary of State Hull about this latest example of frightfulness in democratic America.

But there is something definitely wrong about a so-called democratic government that froths at the mouth about frightfulness and terrorism abroad, yet has not a mumble of condemnation for the same sort of thing at home. Messrs. Roosevelt and Hull might at least have commiserated the grieving family of Elbert Williams.

Democracy means the right to vote for or against the politicians who are in or want to get in office, or else it means nothing at all.

8-10-40

The Negroes of Brownsville work hard, pay taxes and help to make the town what it is, such as it is.

If Elbert Williams is not avenged, if Elisha Davis, Rev. Buster Walker and the other refugees dare not return to their homes, just because they sought to exercise their right to vote, then democracy has no meaning, is a grim and empty fiction, is a terrible jest.

No institution is stronger than its greatest weakness, and for this reason the Negro citizen remains the test of American democracy.

Unless and until every colored man and woman in this country is free to vote in all elections, high-sounding phrases trumpeted from Washington, will continue to fall hollowly upon the ears of intelligent people both here and abroad.

There are a thousand Brownsvilles in this country where Negrophobia enslaves Democracy as effectively as the Nazi enslave liberty in Europe.

We wish the leaders of this nation would recognize this fact and make an honest effort to remedy a situation that undermines the "mock" in democracy.

Aid Sought for Refugee from Tenn. Vote Terror

NEW YORK—An appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tenn., is being answered by a country-wide campaign for funds by the NAACP.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee, where he is also being threatened with violence, is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June.

The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the NAACP resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 Presidential elections.

Neck-Tie Party Threatened

When the Rev. Buster Walker, 55, president, of the Brownsville NAACP and several others presented themselves before the proper official for registration, they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a neck-tie party."

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mrs. Davis's brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the NAACP, was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

Justice Dept. Advised

The whole Brownsville, Tenn., situation has been placed in the hands of the United State Department of Justice by the NAACP.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the NAACP, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

McComb, Miss. Enterprise
June 25, 1940

REPORT HEARD ON LYNCHING OF NEGRO MAN

Memphis (AP)

The city interracial meeting Monday night heard a report on the lynching—minus the "Roman holiday" atmosphere with its resulting publicity—at Brownsville Tenn., last week.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, Atlanta field secretary of the commission on interracial relations, said she had been told here the Brownsville negro had been "quietly taken out and flogged to death" because of his interest in negro affairs.

Sheriff R. C. Hawkins, Brownsville, said the body of the negro was found in the Hatchie river swamps Sunday but the exact cause of death was not determined.

"We are investigating the matter," the sheriff said.

HITLER NO MATCH

Some weeks ago, two Negro leaders in Brownsville, Tenn., started a campaign to register and vote. The idea met with prompt opposition from some of the white people to the extent that the body of one of these men was found in a river later and the other driven from town separating him from his wife and seven children. Now he is a refugee from Brownsville and the N. A. A. C. P. is appealing for funds to help him.

Hitler is entitled to a medal of honor in comparison with these murderers in Brownsville. For most of his fighting is done during the day rather than at night. He warns his enemies and of course they have an opportunity to get ready. Frankly, the Bystander knows that this is one of the most reprehensible cowardly deeds that has occured in America in many years. People who do these things are low and degraded without sense of fair play or decency.

When a Negro reads the appeals for aid for war refugees whether made by the Red Cross or any other group his first thought is "To hell with them. Why should I give to help starving refugees in Europe when the same thing is done to Negroes in America and not even the Federal Government does anything about it." Any other group would take the same position.

And the only reason that deters the Negro from acting on this impulse is the fact that he feels that good white people who help him should not be embarassed and that good citizenship on his part is bound to get him further than acts of violence, disloyalty and sabotage.

We boast that we are interested in maintaining a government of free men. But that freedom should not be used as a license to misuse someone else. In other words the axiom of the law "So use your own as not injure that of another" applies here.

NAACP Tells Negro Demos Of Lynchings

Chicago—Charging "open and notorious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching at Brownsville, Tennessee, Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, headed a committee of five which appeared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention at the Blackstone hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro platform of the Democratic party.

Mr. White, spokesman for the group described in detail the lynching of Elbert Wlliams at Brownsville, Tenn., and painted a picture of the terror to which Negro citizens in that town have been subjected since a few of them, led by the N. A. A. C. P. branch, had indicated their intention to register and vote in the presidential election next November.

Secretary White said the Brownsville lynching was the fourth of 1940 and indicated the need for federal action against mobs. He pointed out that the lynching had occurred as a result of Negro Americans trying to exercise their right to vote and called upon the Democratic party for immediate passage at this session of Congress of the anti-lynching bill which already has passed the House and is now on the Senate calendar.

The N. A. A. C. P. committee also suggested a declaration by the Democrats in the platform for the integration of Negroes in all branches of the armed services. It was pointed out that Negro citizens are being called upon to bear the burden of defense but are not permitted to enlist in the navy except as mess attendants and are barred from the air corps, the coast artillery, the engineering corps, the coast artillery, the engineering corps and other branches of the army except the infantry and the cavalry.

DEATH OF TENN. PRISONER LAID TO FLOGGINGS

Refute Story Penal Farm Inmate Succumbed To Memphis Heat

MEMPHIS.—(ANP)—With evidence developed, indicating that Roger Richardson, Shelby county penal farm inmate, died last week from a beating at the hands of a guard rather than the heat as was alleged by prison officials, Chief of Police Oliver Perry assigned two deputy sheriffs to investigate the case.

The dismissal of a gang foreman, P. O. Morrow, and a guard, L. G. Wilson, followed closely Richardson's death. This action, according to County Commissioner O. B. Ellis, was taken not because of Richardson's death, however, but because the circumstances were incorrectly reported.

The action of Chief Perry in scheduling two deputies to the case after a prisoner wrote him, declaring Richardson's death to be the direct result of a beating by a guard, who is said to have struck him three times after he, apparently overcome by the heat, had fallen to the floor.

County Commissioner Ellis, in reporting the case, said that Richardson refused to return to work Wednesday morning after a rest period, and appeared dazed by the heat. Wilson ordered him back to work and a scuffle followed, bringing to the scene another guard, Coleman, who slapped Richardson down.

It was then that Wilson allegedly struck the prisoner several times. Removed to the Penal Farm from Capleville where the gang was working, Richardson died almost immediately. He was working out a $25 fine for drunkenness.

Democratic Convention Told Of Brownsville Lynching By The N. A. A. C. P.

Committee on Resolutions Hears Walter White Demand Jobs, End of Jim-Crow in Army and Navy, Anti-Lynching Law, and Unrestricted Right to Vote

CHICAGO — Charging "open and notorious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching at Brownsville, Tennessee, Walter White, NAACP secretary, headed a committee of five which appeared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National convention at the Blackstone hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro in the platform of the Democratic party.

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The committee also asked for the abolishment of the poll tax and the lily-white primaries; abolition of the color line in employment; equitable distribution of federal funds to states to aid education, health, housing; relief; farm aid and other services; extension of Social Security to agricultural, domestic and casual labor; abolitian of the color line in federal government posts and enforcement of civil rights laws in all sections of the United States.

The NAACP committee appeared before the resolutions committee at the invitation of Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman. Other members of the committee besides Mr. White included Irvin C. Mollison, Chicago; Roscoe Dunjee, Oklahoma City, Okla. W. Robert Ming, Washington, D. C.; and Alderman Earl B. Dickerson of Chicago.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
June 30, 1040

U. S. ATTORNEY AWAITS 'LYNCH' PROBE REPORT

Inquiry Conducted Into Death Of Brownsville Negro

WASHINGTON IS CURIOUS

Investigation Followed Question On Case From Washington, And After Study Of Reports By N.A.A.C.P.

United States Dist. Atty. William McClanahan said yesterday he is awaiting a report on a Federal investigation of the death of Everett Williams, 33-year-old Brownsville, Tenn., negro whose body was found in the Hatchie River last Sunday.

The probe, he said, was made after an inquiry from Federal officials at Washington and after he had talked with Walter White, negro secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

White is understood to have conducted a quiet study of the case here on behalf of his organization. He returned to Washington by plane Friday.

Reports from Brownsville are that Williams is believed to have been killed by a group of unidentified men following recent attempts of some Brownsville negroes to arrange to be allowed to vote in the coming presidential election.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in the Memphis office said yesterday that while they have read of the case in newspaper reports, they have not been called on in connection with it. They added that no angle of Federal violation has been brought to their attention in the slaying.

Williams is understood to have been connected with the N. A. A. C. P., although it has not been determined that he was a member. He was questioned by Brownsville police a few hours before the time his death is believed to have taken place.

Expect Baby In Home Of Elisha Davis

Journal & Guide
7-27-40
Norfolk, Va.

Wife Needs Care; Driven From Town, Man Unemployed

NEW YORK CITY—An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the NAACP here from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownsville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occasion, white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

ONE LYNCHING SO FAR

A Brownsville mob already has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a part of the terror being imposed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the NAACP has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

The fury of the mob is directed especially against members of the Brownsville chapter of the NAACP. All efforts to hold a meeting have been broken up. The president of the Brownsville NAACP, the Rev. Buster Walker, has been driven out of town.

All other people suspected of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized. White people even have gone to neighboring towns where they suspect the exiles to be hiding and warned that they would be killed upon sight.

Elisha Davis, who was active in the NAACP branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city. For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children, or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville, and the colored people there do not know whether anything is being done in their behalf or not. No strange Negroes are allowed in the city.

POLICE QUIZZED NEGRO BEFORE DEATH SUNDAY

Commercial Appeal

Brownsville Officers Had Released Him After Three Hours

GRAND JURY TO GET CASE

6-28-40

Haywood County Body Will Investigate Incident Aug. 12—Marshal Tells Of Complaints About Meeting

Memphis, Tenn.

By EARLE DUFFEY
Staff Correspondent

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., June 27. —Everett Williams, 33-year-old negro whose death near here Sunday will be investigated Aug. 12 by a special Haywood County Grand Jury, was picked up and held for investigation by city police June 20, the night of his disappearance, Night City Marshal Tip Hunter said Thursday.

The negro, reportedly the victim of a lynching party, and another negro, Tommy Davis, were questioned for three hours after several complaints that they were calling a meeting of Brownsville negroes that night were made to the Police Department, Night Marshal Hunter, who is Democratic nominee for sheriff, said.

Brownsville Shocked

Mayor John O. Bomer said that "Brownsville is shocked over the entire affair, and this lynching, if that is what happened to the negro, is deeply regretted by the majority of our town."

"The action of the small group reported to be involved in the untimely occurance does in no way express the sentiment or moral outlook of the city as a whole."

Night Marshal Hunter said he had picked up the negroes after he had been tipped off that "four cars of Northern negroes" were in town the afternoon of June 20.

"After questioning them three hours in regard to the reported called meeting of local and Jackson members of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People with the Northern negroes, I turned them loose and they both walked away from the station unmolested," he said.

Town Square Quiet

"I didn't see anything that looked like a lynching party, either white or negro. The square was quiet and no one was moving about. That's all I saw of Williams until his body was discovered in Hatchie River the following Sunday.

Although many Brownsville citizens pooh-poohed the idea of an "invasion" of the city by a group of Jackson N. S. A. C. P. members, city police, reinforced by three state patrolmen, were on the alert Tuesday night, June 25, after a Brownsville negro reported to Night Marshal Hunter that "a bunch of Jackson negroes are coming over to burn the town." A crowd gathered around the courthouse but nothing happened, Mr. Hunter said.

An issue of the Jackson Times, negro newspaper, protesting the reported ejection of a negro attorney from Haywood Circuit Court here last May, was said to be the main factor behind the organization in Brownsville of a chapter of the N. S. A. C. P.

Sheriff Is Investigating

This incident, coming after the request made by a small group several weeks before that Haywood negroes be allowed to vote, resulted in twice-weekly meetings of a small number of local negroes with numerous out-of-town negroes, it was reported.

Sheriff R. C. Hawkins said he was investigating the negro's death and that he would turn his findings over to the grand jury.

"I'm trying my best to get to the bottom of the affair, and will turn my evidence over to the jury as soon as they convene," he declared.

MOB LEADERS' NAMES SENT TO PRESIDENT

Defender

Identify Bank Officials, Police, As Some Of The Lynchers

1-13-40

NEW YORK—The national Association for the Advancement of Colored People placed before President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice today a report which listed the names of leaders in the mob of sixty whites who drove seven prominent Negroes out of Brownsville, Tenn., last week, following the lynching of Elbert Williams, June 22, and the institution of a reign of terror that is still in force.

The report was sent to the President following a three-day investigation of the lynching by Walter White, secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. Williams, a 33-year-old fireman, "disappeared" after he had helped organize Negroes in Brownsville, County seat of Haywood county, Tenn., in a "register-and-vote" drive preparatory to the 1940 Presidential election.

William McClanahan, United States attorney, said last week that he was waiting for a report from FBI agents investigating the reported lynching.

Mr. McClanahan has had inquiry from Washington on the case and Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, talked with him in Memphis about the matter.

Federal prosecution in the case might result if the investigation reveals that threats were made to intimidate citizens to prevent them from voting in a federal election, it is reported.

"We will give the matter the proper attention at the proper time," Mr. McClanahan said.

A special grand jury session of the state Circuit Court has been called for August 12 to investigate Williams' death.

The names of the mob leaders included two bank officials, several police officers, a state highway commissioner, and several merchants. Williams' body was fished up from a river near Brownsville on Sunday, June 23.

There were two stab or bullet wounds showing on his chest. His head was battered and beaten. His arms and feet were tied with rope and his body weighted down by a heavy log tied around his neck. The report gives the following account of the incidents leading up to the present reign of terror now operating in Brownsville.

On May 6, the Rev. Buster Walker, John Lester and John Gaines, both farmers; Taylor Newbern, owner of a dry cleaning plant; and Elisha Davis, owner of a filling station, went to County registrar Mann's office advising him that they wished to register in order to vote in the Presidential election.

Mann sent them to City Judge Pearson, who asked them: "What committee is this?" They replied that they were simply seeking advice about how to qualify to vote in the 1940 Presidential election. Judge Pearson, in turn, referred them to Jonas Steinberger, a cotton buyer and chairman of the elections committee. Steinberger was out of the city, so the five individuals and the other colored people, having learned in the meantime that the registration booths would not open until August, let the matter rest.

But on the following day, Deputy Sheriff T. Bolden went to Rev Walker and threatened him, saying that he had better "stop encouraging Negroes to vote or there will be trouble. Don't say I didn't warn you," he said.

Nothing further was heard until two weeks later when Strauss Drumwright, unemployed, went to Elisha Davis' filling station to tell him that he heard that Mr. Davis was "a member of some organization getting Negroes to vote." He told him to let the thing drop or Negroes would get into some serious trouble. "The people down at the courthouse say they will run you and Walker out of town if you try to vote."

1-13-40

Chicago Defender

On June 3, J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro lawyer, came to Brownsville to try a case for a Negro client accused of shooting at a white man. Ballard was escorted out of town by police officials, when a mob threatened his life inside the courtroom.

At 1 o'clock in the morning, on Sunday, June 16, Elisha Davis was aroused from sleep by a mob of whites who pounded on his door. He was told to come down and prepare to leave home. Before he was led away his wife, mother of seven children, asked that her husband's life be spared. She was told by one of the police officers: "You'll never see this black . . . . . again; we are going to kill him."

Davis was hustled into an automobile by leaders of the mob, and carried to the "river bottom" six miles away. Here he was questioned about the purposes of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and asked to give the names of members in the organization. He told members of the mob that the organization was urging Negro citizens to "vote if we want to and not to vote if we don't want to, and to make better citizens."

Davis gave the names of several persons whom the mob knew of, when he was threatened with death unless he told the names of all those who intended to vote. He was then taken to the edge of town and told never to return on pain of death. Davis walked eight or nine miles finally arriving in Jackson, Tenn., where he is staying temporarily for safety.

Democrats Told of Brownsville Lynching

Courier

CHICAGO—Charging "open and notorious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching of Brownsville, Tenn., Walter White, NAACP secretary, headed a committee of five which apepared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention at the Blackstone Hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro in the platform of the Democratic party.

G-MEN INVESTIGATE 'OFF-RECORD' LYNCH CASE IN TENNESSEE

Courier

7-13-40

Pittsburgh Pa.

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., July 11.—Because there is much mystery surounding the death of 33-year-old Everett Williams, killed here recently by alleged white hoodlums, the Federal Government has started an investigation that threatens to blast open the vigorous campaign launched here recently against Negroes selling their constitutional right to vote.

District Attorney William McClanahan announced that an agent is now in Brownsville checking on the case and will report his findings as soon as possible.

Williams' body was fished up from a nearby river last week, after it was reported that he had been kidnapped from his home early in the morning, and whisked away by a group of white men. An active worker in the NAACP, Williams was one of the leaders in a campaign designed to encourage more Negroes to vote in Brownsville. His activities in this direction finally resulted in his death.

Courier

Elisha Davis, who was also involved in the balloting campaign with Williams, was taken by the Federal authorities, by the NAACP soon after the Brownsville slaying to report how he had been ordered from town by whites there and told never to return.

Davis was taken to a river bottom about six miles from town and made to tell the purposes of the NAACP. He was threatened with death unless he told the names of the members of the particular branch. He was released and told to leave town, despite the fact he had a wife and seven children.

The NAACP is now raising a fund for the purpose of helping Davis' estranged family, and also many other Negro families that have been threatened.

In his report to the Federal authorities, Davis named at least eight of the hoodlums he recognized the night he was dragged from his home and taken to the river bottom.

An uneasy air prevails in Brownsville at the present time. From all indications the white officials have been expecting trouble. Negroes going into the town or leaving have been stopped and searched by police, it is reported.

OFFICIALS PROMISE PROBE: RIOT FEARED

Body of Negro Found in River After Being Snatched from Home Late at Night by Group of White Townspeople

By JAMES H. PURDY, JR.

MEMPHIS, Tenn.--Announcements by county and federal officials that a thorough investigation of the suspected lynching of Elbert Williams, 31-year-old laundry fireman, whose decomposed body was found in the Hatchie River, following closely on the heels of seething undercurrent interracial friction throughout the town, made Brownsville, Tenn., a smoldering volcano this week. Brownsville is just a few miles from here.

Night City Marshal Tip Hunter, candidate for Sheriff and U. S. District Attorney William McClanahan, have both announced they are launching probes into the death of Williams, whose activity in the newly organized Brownsville chapter of the NAACP, is believed to have earned the displeasure of whites in the town.

Eight other prominent Negroes, all members of the new chapter, are missing. Fears of race rioting and reports that a mob of Negroes from near Jackson, Miss., are on the verge of marching on Brownsville, have placed the latter town under a blanket of suspense.

The eight others missing, none of whom have contacted their families since their disappearance, are Willie Williams, Alex Hill, Elisha Davis, Taylor Newborn, Thomas Davis, Emma Davis, Dewitt Cobb and Joseph Boone. Elisha and Thomas Davis, were recently taken into custody in a manner similar to Williams, later released, and disappeared almost immediately after [illegible]. After examination by the coroner, Williams was declared to have come to his death at the hands of a violent manner by persons unknown, and very quickly buried. The body was identified by his wife who had not seen him since June 20 when he was snatched from his home by a group of whites who didn't even give him time to change from his nightclothes.

The tense situation is believed to have arised from the organization, about 18 months ago, of a Brownsville chapter of the NAACP. White townspeople, resenting the organization's immediate campaign against injustices to Negroes, are reported to have instituted a counter reign of terror against all Negroes known to be affiliated with the chapter.

The Rev. Buster Walker, president of the new chapter, sought recently by a group of whites, left town. Others approached were warned, it is said, until the chapter was rendered inactive.

According to Williams' wife, Marshal Hunter, former Mayor George Reed of Brownsville, and two other white men were among those who took her husband away from his home.

Aroused over the situation, Mayor Bomer of Brownsville, and a number of other leading white citizens have expressed determination to sift the matter to the bottom, insisting that the action of the "small group" of whites does not express the "sentiment or moral outlook of the city as a whole."

Despite these assertions, however, reports that a number of Negroes passing through Brownsville recently, have been stopped and questioned closely, and insistent rumors that some of the most influential whites in the town are actively implicated in the anti-Negro activities continued to run through the town.

The present threat of an outbreak has long hovered over Haywood County of which Brownsville is the county seat. Of the total population of 26,000, Negroes comprise about three fourths, haven't been allowed to vote since 1884.

Brownsville Father of Seven Appeals for Aid

New York—An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the N. A. A. C. P. here from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownsville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occassions white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

A Brownsville mob already has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a part of the terror being imposed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the N. A. A. C. P. has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

LYNCHING - 1940
SIDELIGHTS

TENNESSEE

6615

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION TOLD OF BROWNSVILLE LYNCHING BY N.A.A.C.P.

Committee On Resolutions Hears Walter White Demand Jobs, End of Jim-Crow in Army and Navy, Anti-Lynching Law, And Unrestricted Right To Vote

Chicago, July 12.—Charging "open and notroious discrimination" in the army and navy and citing the recent lynching at Brownville, Tenn., Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. secretary, headed a committee of five which appeared before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention at the Blackstone Hotel here July 12 demanding a plank on the Negro in the platform of the Democratic party.

Mr. White, spokesman for the group, described in detail the lynching of Elbert Williams at Brownsville, Tenn., and painted a picture of the terror to which Negro citizens in that town have been subjected since a few of them, led by the N.A.A.C.P. branch, had indicated their intention to register and vote in the presidential election next November.

Secretary White said the Brownsville lynching was the fourth of 1940 and indicated the need for federal action against mobs. He pointed out that the lynching had occurred as a result of Negro Americans trying to exercise their right to vote and called upon the Democratic party for immediate passage at this session of Congress of the anti-lynching bill which already has passed the House and is now on the Senate calendar.

The N.A.A.C.P. committee also suggested a declaration by the Democrats in the platform for the integration of Negroes in all branches of the armed services. It was pointed out that Negro citizens are being called upon to bear the burden of defense but are not permitted to enlist in the navy except as mess attendants and are barred from the air corps, the coast artillery, the engineering corps and other branches of the army except the infantry and the cavalry.

The committee also asked for the abolishment of the poll tax and the lily-white primaries; abolition of the color line in employment; equitable distribution of federal funds to states to aid education, health, housing, relief, farm aid and other services; extension of Social Security to agricultural, domestic and casual labor; abolition of the color line in federal government posts and enforcement of civil rights laws in all sections of the United States.

The N.A.A.C.P. committee appeared before the resolutions committee at the invitation of Senator Robert F. Wagner, chairman. Other members of the committee besides Mr. White included Irvin C. Mollison of Chicago; Roscoe Dunjee of Oklahoma City, Okla.; W. Robert Ming, Washington, D.C.; and Alderman Earl B. Dickerson of Chicago.

Nashville, Tenn Tennessean
August 29, 1940

NEGRO MEETING

Session to Protest Lynching of Three at Brownsville

A meeting to protest the lynching of three Negroes at Brownsville in June will be held tonight at St. John's Negro Methodist Church under sponsorship of the Nashville Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The Rev. Pickens Johnson, president of the Nashville Ministerial Alliance, and Walter White, Negro, executive secretary of the national association, will speak.

Governor Cooper Gets Protests On Lynching

Daily World

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—The attention which the Brownsville, Tennessee situation has attracted is pointedly illustrated by the exchange of letters between Dr. J. E. Walker, Memphis insurance executive and president of the National Negro Business League and Gov. Prentice Cooper, Tennessee's present chief executive and candidate for re-election this year.

Atlanta Ga.

Doctor Walker's letter to the Governor follows:

"Your Excellency:

"The unfortunate incident which occurred in Brownsville is a reflection upon the good name and an unwarranted attack upon law-abiding Negro citizens.

"The Negro who was murdered and those who were forced to leave the community and their families had not been guilty of the 'usual crime' for which Negroes are mobbed. From evidence as revealed they had done nothing more than apply to legal authorities for the privilege of registering as voters.

"In many sections of the State and in other Southern States Negro citizens and taxpayers are registered without molestation and frequently at the suggestion of representative white citizens. Since that is true it only serves to heighten the flagrancy of the offense against law and order in the Brownsville community.

"Today's press reports indicate that among those who participated in this violence were themselves duly elected law officers.

"As a citizen of this State and one who supported you in your campaign for the Governorship may I appeal to you to throw the full weight of your great office behind the effort to punish those who are guilty of this offense.

Daily World

"Yours very truly,
"Signed,
"J. E. Walker, M. D.,
"Pres., National Negro Business League."

7-12-40

The Governor's letter in reply to the Memphis leader's message and request was obviously terse and to the point. The Governor's letter follows:

Atlanta, Ga.

"Dear Dr. Walker:

"I have your letter of July 1, relative to your understanding of a situation at Brownsville, Tennessee. I want to assure you of our interest in enforcement of the law.

"This matter has been referred to the proper state authorities for investigation."

"Yours very truly,
"Signed,
Prentice Cooper."

Dr. Walker was noncommittal in regard to his reaction to the letter received from Governor Cooper, preferring to let each letter speak for itself.

The Brownsville situation to which reference was made is that in which one or more Negro citizens of that town have been lynched, about a dozen driven out of town, and others intimidated by marauding whites because they had the teemerity to seek the right to vote in a community in which Negroes have not cast a ballot in fifty-six years.

Doctor Walker, as one of Memphis' nationally-recognized colored leaders, took the initiative to seek a state investigation of the Brownsville confusion. The Governor of the State made the foregoing reply.

Others Also Chased By Tennessee Lynchers

Tribune

Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—An appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tenn., is backed by a country-wide campaign for funds by the NAACP.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee (where he is also being threatened with violence), is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June. The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the NAACP, resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 presidential elections.

When the Reverend Buster Walker, 55, president of the Brownsville NAACP, and several others presented themselves before the proper official for registration they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a necktie party."

Chased and Lynched

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mr. Davis's brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the NAACP, was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

The NAACP is calling on all citizens to contribute to a fund for the relief of the Brownsville exiles and for the purpose of attacking the whole situation to the end that colored citizens may return to their homes, vote in the 1940 elections, and pursue their normal lives.

In his letter to the NAACP, Elisha Davis wrote:

"I gambled everything, my home, my business, my life, my family (wife and children) in order to prove to those people in Brownsville that the NAACP was all right. At present I am separated from my family. I am not making any money. I do not feel secure in the least. After having told all in this case, my life here, even in this town, is constantly threatened."

Laid Before Authorities

The whole Brownsville, Tenn., situation has been placed in the hands of the United States Department of Justice by the NAACP. Dean William Hastie, chairman of the NAACP legal committee, has conferred with O. John Rogge, assistant U. S. attorney general; Walter White, NAACP secretary, has conferred with William McClanahan, U. S. Attorney at Memphis. Mr. White made a trip to Tennessee during which he gathered first-hand information on the Brownsville case.

The Brownsville situation, from beginning to end, is a story of the most open, flagrant, and unashamed exercise of mob terror and lynching that has come to light in many years, the NAACP declares.

It has been shown conclusively that Brownsville officials, including a night marshal and candidate for sheriff, a night policeman, a county highway commissioner, and others were among the leaders of the mob which drove Brownsville NAACP leaders from town.

7-11-40

Elisha Davis was awakened in the middle of the night, forced to dress at the point of a pistol, and his wife was told "You will never see this black . . . again, We are going to kill him."

Wife, Seven Kids Left

Davis was taken to a river bottom about six miles from town and was asked about the purposes of the NAACP. He was threatened with death unless he told the names of the members of the branch. Finally, he was released and told to leave the county and "never show his face there again." His wife and 7 children are at the mercy of the hoodlums in Brownsville.

At the recent NAACP conference in Philadelphia, Pa., outraged delegates contributed spontaneously the sum of $150 after the Reverend Buster Walker had told a graphic story of the terror in Brownsville.

Philadelphia, Pa.

The present fund being raised by the NAACP is for the purpose not only of individual relief for the families of terrorized Brownsville citizens but to carry on the fight to clean up the Tennessee town so that colored people may enjoy the rights to which they are entitled as citizens.

Every pressure is being brought to bear on the federal and state governments to see that these people are restored in safety to thir rights.

Meanwhile Brownsville is trying to block every effort to get at the trouble. Officers are posted on the highways leading into town and are turning back all colored people who do not live in Brownsville.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the NAACP, 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

Lynching Terror Is Rampant

G-Men Probe Not Making Much Progress

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. (ANP)—Brownsville, heretofore quiet town of 19,000 population, three-fourths of whom are Negroes, has been a hot-bed of terror since the lynching of Elbert Wiliams, head of the local NAACP, after he and several other Negroes attempted to register to vote in the 1940 presidential election.

Terrorism has run rampant, causing several members of the NAACP to flee in order to escape the fate of Williams, whose battered body was fished out of the Hatchie River late in June.

Elisha Davis, 39; his brother, Tommy Davis; and the Rev. Buster Walker accompanied Williams to see the county registrar and later were forced to flee in order to preserve their lives.

FORCED TO FLEE

Elisha Davis, a life-long resident of Brownsville, where he has operated his own filling station for five years, was the first to flee. Now in Memphis, he said this week that he has not seen his wife and seven children since a white mob took him to the river bottoms near Brownsville June 16, and told him never to return to Brownsville.

Davis, a member for 18 months of the newly organized Brownsville branch of the NAACP, was awakened in the middle of the night by the mob, forced to dress at the point of a gun, and his wife was told, "You will never see this black . . . . . again. We are going to kill him.

Taken to a river bottom about six miles from town, he was asked about the purposes of the NAACP and threatened with death unless he told the names of the branch members. Released finally, he was warned to leave the county and "never show his face here again."

PREACHER THREATENED

Tommy Davis, picked up along with Williams, but later released, also fled and is now in Nashville. Rev. Mr. Walker was warned not to encourage Negroes to vote, and told there would be trouble if he did.

Elisha Davis named eight members of the mob he said he recognized, among them Tip Hunter, night city marshal and sheriff-elect of Haywood County, and Police Officer Charles Reid.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has been appraised of the findings in the Brownsville trouble by Walter White, NAACP secretary, who made investigations, but little progress has been made in the case.

Down In Tennessee

THE little town of Brownsville, Tenn., has made the headlines at last! Brownsville is a southern town, and it doesn't take a second guess to ascertain how it happened to make the headlines. As is customary with southern towns, whenever they wish to make sure of making the headlines, they stage a lynching, and that was what Brownsville did. And why? No, no white woman was raped, nor was a white man murdered by a black man. It all happened because a few Negroes were courageous enough to demand the right to vote in elections—the right to participate in the government for whose maintenance they pay taxes—the right to the exercise of citizenship. Because of this courage some were lynched and others driven out of town by "red-necked" whites.

It was futile to excoriate the mobbists, It is a waste of time to deplore the incident. It is not helpful to the terrified Negro citizens of that Tennessee town to offer them our sympathy. We can only stand dumbfounded, but not surprised. The history of this country, especially its southern states, is the history of mob murders. It is a recitation of the terroristic exploits of men who have lost all trace of the spirit of humanity and a reverence for the sacredness of life, not to mention a conception of right. Such men find it no harder to lynch men for wanting to vote than they do to murder them for capital crimes. They act without regard for humanity and without fear of punishment by law.

The Brownsville episode is another instance of the ineffectiveness of our democracy. It is silly to say that lynchings cannot be prevented. Lynchings prevail because the perpetrators know they can get away with them without even interference, much less punishment. The American nation, which first made Negroes slaves, then citizens, has signally failed to live up to its obligations as a government of protection. In cases like the Brownsville affair, it is revealed as a farce—a mockery—a travesty upon an intelligent interpretation of the real functions of government. In making citizens of peoples its duty was clear, and if it fails to discharge this duty thoroughly, it is not a government of courage and strength, but of cowardice and weakness.

FDR Given Names of Tennessee Mob; Asked To Push Lynch Bill

NEW YORK CITY — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People placed before President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice this week a report which listed the names of leaders in the mob of sixty whites who drove seven prominent Negroes out of Brownsville, Tenn., last week following the lynching of Elbert Williams, June 22, and the institution of a reign of terror against Negroes that is still in force.

The President was urged to do all in his power to push anti-lynching legislation through Congress.

The report was sent to the President following a three-day investigation of the lynching by Walter White, secretary of the N. A. A. C. P.

Wililams a 33-year-old laundry fireman, "disappeared" after he had helped to organize the Negroes in Brownsville, county seat of Haywood County, Tenn., in a "register-and-vote" drive preparatory to the 1940 Presidential election next November.

POLICE IN MOB

The names of the mob leaders included two bank officials, several police officers, a state highway commissioner, and several merchants. Williams' body was fished up from a river near Brownsville on Sunday, June 23. There were two stab or bullet wounds showing on his chest. His head was battered and beaten to twice its normal size. His arms and feet were tied with rope and his body weighted down by a heavy log tied around his neck. The report gives a complete account of the incidents leading up to the present reign of terror now operating in Brownsville.

The reign of terror started in Brownsville on May 6 when several Negro citizens sought out court and election officials and asked about the proper method for registering to vote in the 1940 Presidential election. After they had been given the run-around from one city official to another, Negro citizens decided to drop the matter until the registration books were opened in August.

NEGROES THREATENED

However, on the following day, the Rev. Buster Walker, one of the leaders of the citizens who wished to vote, was warned by the deputy sheriff that there would be trouble unless he stopped encouraging Negroes to vote. A similar threat was made against Elisha Davis, filling station operator.

Later a Negro lawyer, who had come to Brownsville to try a case involving a Negro who shot at a white man, was escorted out of town by the sheriff. Davis was also questioned about the activities of the NAACP and also chased out of town. He is at present living in Jackson, Tenn. for safety.

President Roosevelt was urged to "publicly and uncompromisingly insist on action by the Senate on the anti-lynching bill, 'if he would prevent' the outbreaks of mob violence which disgraced America during and following the last war."

CRITICIZES BARKLEY

Enclosed in the letter was a copy of the N. A. A. C. P. secretary's report to William McClanahan, United States District Attorney, at Memphis, setting forth the whole story leading up to the finding of Williams' body in a river near Brownsville.

Mr. White, who investigated the case for three days from headquarters in Memphis, advised the president that he was putting the matter squarely up to the chief executive for immediate action because Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley, of Kentucky had just written the Association that "because he does not believe cloture can be invoked on the anti-lynching bill, he does not propose to make any effort to get it to a vote."

The President was advised that the "lynching of Elbert Williams is the fourth since March 22, the other three victims being white persons."

MOB VIOLENCE

"In addition," the letter said, "there has been widespread outbreaks of mob violence in which lynching was narrowly averted from Maine to Texas uring recent weeks. No measure pending before Congress to preserve the emocratic process is more important than the anti-lynching bill."

Federal Probe Into Lynching Promised

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — United States District Attorney William McClanhan announced this week that a federal investigation will be conducted into the alleged lynching of Everett Williams, whose mangled body was found in a nearby river recently. It is thought that the investigation conducted by NAACP Secretary Walter White inspired action of federal authorities.

Brownsville Refugee Makes Appeal For Aid

Courier 1-27-40

Pittsburgh Pa.

Father of Seven Children, Driven From Home By Mob, Reveals Wife Is to Have Another Child, With No Means of Support.

NEW YORK, July 27—An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the N. A. A. C. P. here from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownsville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occasions, white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

A Brownsville mob already has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a part of the terror being imposed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the N. A. A. C. P. has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

The fury of the mob is directed especially against members of the Brownsville chapter of the N. A. A. C. P. All efforts to hold a meeting have been broken up. The president of the Brownsville N. A. A. C. P., the Rev. Buster Walker, has been driven out of town. All other colored people suspected of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized. White people even have gone to neighboring towns where they suspect the exiles to be hiding and warned that they would be killed upon sight.

Elisha Davis, who was active in the N. A. A. C. P. branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city. For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville, and the colored people there do not know whether anything is being done in their behalf or not. No strange Negroes are allowed in the city.

TODAY AND TOMORROW

Defender

By

JOHN H. SENGSTACKE

7-27-40

Chicago Ill.

A people who are not prepared to make every sacrifice to secure and maintain their freedom and the right of democratic expression will never have either for long. This holds true for all men, but for none does it have greater truth than for those of us who are Negroes.

Political murder is a weapon of the most reactionary forces in politics. Paid assassins are loosed by those who are desperately clinging to the seats of power at the expense of the people. Murderous gangs such as the Ku Klux Klan, the White Camilias, the Black Legion, and the Christian Front have the sanction of government else they could not exist for a day. It is time to call a halt. Democracy cannot live in such an atmosphere.

The former slaveholders momentarily removed from power by the Civil War assassinated Abraham Lincoln, believing that such an act of terror would pave the way to their return to power. Before the war which ended human slavery in our country and since, the main weapon of the landlord system has been terror. Now it begins to spread in wider circles.

The murder of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tenn., is however an expression of weakness not of strength. Williams, a local leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was a spokesman of the Negro people as a whole. Williams was a true representative of democracy. His fight to secure the right to vote to black men was, and forever will remain, a part of the inseparable struggle for democracy in our country. Men are rallying to such an appeal as Williams made.

Crispus Attucks went down before the hired troops of that British Tory George III. Elbert Williams went down before the hooded thugs of landlords who made of the south a mockery of democracy and a by-word for murder. But other men will rise to take his place.

The murder of this N.A.A.C.P. leader is as much of a political assassination as the ghastly shooting down of any great statesman would be. Williams was murdered so that a handful of land owners and bankers could continue to control the power of the state of Tennessee. More than 75 per cent of those eligible to vote in Tennessee are denied the ballot. The poll tax and terror, masked and hooded, has destroyed democracy in one of the most important industrial states of the south.

The report of the N.A.A.C.P. to the President of our country says that two bankers, a state highway commissioner, several police officers and several merchants engineered and participated in the Williams murder. It is said that some investigation is underway. But how much time is needed to arrest and convict the guilty parties? The facts are known.

This bestial murder comes in an election year. The air rings with loud hosannas sung to democracy. Men talk of the blessings of one or another political party. Men have appeared before the Platform Committees of both the Republican and Democratic parties, calling for support for anti-lynch law. In vague and general terms both major parties have called for democracy for black America.

But words are but the shadow. To move men it is necessary that a course be fearlessly charted that makes for democracy. Lynchers cannot be appeased.

The death of Elbert Williams cannot go unchallenged. The leading spokesman of the Republican and Democratic parties should openly address themselves to the people on this issue. Black men are waiting for some word that denotes that action has been or will be taken.

Can men who ask only that their right to vote be respected, be murdered in cold blood in 1940 and the government tranquilly and serenely go on as though nothing had happened?

Men who are nominated to the high office of President and the man who occupies that high office have the duty to speak out. What is their answer?

The Williams case is no "ordinary" murder. The Williams case represents the assassination of our democracy. Black men want something done about it. White men who have a love for democracy want something done about it.

There can be no serious talk of national defense which does not find an accompaniment of the defense of democratic rights and civil liberties.

Lynching has become one of the most active institutions of our country. But heretofore some kind of crime was always alleged to have taken place. Usually rape is charged as the cause responsible for the commission of this greater crime of lynching. But Elbert Williams was seeking only to vote. Has that too become a crime against which bankers, state commissioners and police officers take up arms? Are those who ask the enforcement of the Constitution to be lynched?

Throughout the country all lovers of democracy and particularly black men and women should write to their representatives and senators about the murder of Elbert Williams.

Letters should be addressed to President Roosevelt calling for action on the part of the Department of Justice. Letters should be sent to Wendell Willkie requesting a statement from him concerning this crime.

THE BROWNSVILLE BEASTS

Defender 1-27-40 Chicago Ill.

Democratic America cannot allow the murderers of Elbert Williams, a Negro fireman of Brownsville, Tenn., to go unpunished. Williams was a leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. But the case does not belong to the N.A.A.C.P. alone. This case must become the concern of an outraged nation. The responsibility rests with those who fail to enforce the Constitution.

It is impossible to discuss the Williams lynching dispassionately. It violates every principle upon which democratic government ever pretended to rest. It is a crime against the nation. It is a crime against all who by word or deed have made a declaration of faith in American justice and its democratic institutions. It stamps murder as a policy of government if this crime goes unpunished.

Elbert Williams was foully and bestially murdered because he sought to exercise his constitutional right to vote in Tennessee. Elbert Williams was an American, born and bred. He only asked his rights, rights too long denied Americans. He was determined to vote. He was right.

Two bankers, a state highway commissioner several police officers and merchants are charged with his murder in a report sent to President Roosevelt by the N.A.A.C.P., after a three-day investigation by Walter White. The crime rests on the shoulders of those we have so often called the "best people." They do not want Negroes to be full and free citizens.

This bloody deed was done in order that Negroes in the state of Tennessee in general and the town of Brownsville in particular would be terrorized and surrender every manhood right. Slavery looms above the heads of those who remain in Brownsville, slavery and death. We cannot remain silent while our people cry aloud for help.

If this is not a case for the F.B.I., there was never one. If this is not a moment when the President of the United States and the Republican candidate for that office should speak, God alone knows when such a moment will arrive.

Have black people no rights in Dixie that a banker or a plantation owner is bound to respect?

The nation should be aroused. The protests from black men and women, and from whites as well, should come from the ends of this country if immediate action is not taken by state and federal authorities to punish the guilty. Here is a fifth columnist swinging to a lynch law ballad.

N.A.A.C.P. To Probe Terrorism Of Race Population In Tennessee

Defender
7-27-40
Chicago, Ill.

NEW YORK — Following the receipt of an urgent and tragic appeal from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of a half dozen men who have been driven from their homes by Brownsville mobs, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People announced this week that it would make a thorough investigation into the case and see that the guilty persons are prosecuted.

The men were driven from their homes during the month of June when they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville.

Already on two occasions, white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

A Brownsville mob already has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a part of the terror being imposed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the N.A.A.C.P. has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

The fury of the mob is directed especially against members of the Brownsville chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. All efforts to hold a meeting have been broken up. The president of the Brownsville N.A.A.C.P., the Rev. Buster Walker, has been driven out of town.

All other colored people suspected of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized. White people even have gone to neighboring towns where they suspect the exiles to be hiding and warned that they would be killed upon sight.

Elisha Davis, who was active in the N.A.A.C.P. branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city.

For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children, or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville and the colored people there do not know whether anything is being done in their behalf or not. No strange Negroes are allowed in the city.

Despite the terror in Brownsville and vicinity and the threats against N.A.A.C.P. officers in other parts of Tennessee, the local officers are determined to carry on the work and have indicated that they will not be frightened by the mobs.

The N.A.A.C.P. headquarters here is appealing for contributions for the relief of the families and for the carrying on of the fight to clean up Brownsville. Contributions shoud be sent to the N.A.A.C.P. at 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks should be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

BROWNSVILLE REFUGEE IN ANOTHER APPEAL FOR AID

Age
7-27-40
New York, N.Y.

Elisha Davis In Hiding Reveals His Wife Is About To Have Baby

An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the NAACP here from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownsville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob, he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occasions, white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

One Lynched Already

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The NAACP headquarters here is appealing for contributions for $7,500,000 in addition to the $9,781,-40 allotted from WPA funds. State and local school boards will have the primary responsibility for the actual conduct of the courses. The project will operate in states where the need is certified by the State Director of Vocational Education. The Director will also serve as state representative of the sponsor and co-sponsor.

The WPA will select and assign persons for training upon requisition from the vocational educational authorities, continuing to pay these workers during the training course. Other qualified persons may be selected by public employment offices, but these will not be paid by WPA.

Vocational education, apprentice training and work experience in mass production industries, even though such experience may not have been at an occupation requiring a high degree of skill, will be considered in selecting trainees. Auto mechanics, machine shop workers, electricians, cabinet makers, draftsmen, sheet metal workers, welders, pattern makers, etc., the relief of the families and for the carrying on of the fight to clean up Brownsville, Contributions should be sent to the NAACP at 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks should be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

WHITE HOUSE GETS ANOTHER APPEAL

Following up its two previous appeals to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the situation in Brownsville, Tenn., the NAACP sent the following telegram Saturday asking that immediate steps be taken to wipe out the terror in the Tennessee town:

"We appeal once more for action by your office to safeguard the citizenship rights of American Negroes in Brownsville, Tenn. The whole situation in Brownsville arose when law-abiding property holding colored citizens of that town evidenced their desire to register and vote in the coming November election. The result of this action was the lynching of Elbert Williams, 33, and the driving from the city of a half dozen or more citizens who were members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The entire Negro population of Brownsville has been terrorized by mobs which have extended their threats

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

TENNESSEE

6618

Writer Visits Fear Stricken Brownsville

Citizen Who Fled Town Said Trouble Started When Negroes Tried to Register For Election

By Member of Call Staff

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is conducting a probe into the lynching of Elbert Williams, whose body was fished from the Hatchie river here Sunday, June 23.

A member of The Call's staff made a trip to the scene of the alleged lynching, despite warnings that he might never be seen alive again.

The Haywood county grand jury has been called to meet August 12 to investigate the lynching of Williams.

Seek to Prevent Registration

The present reign of fear and terror following the Williams lynching, he learned, has its roots embedded deeply and solely in the disapproval of white people of the effort of a considerable number of Negro citizens registering to vote in the approaching general election.

It has been definitely established that white people want to keep Negroes away from the polls in November, and their first task is to keep Negroes from getting their names on the registration rolls.

Reliable information is that the "scores of Negroes reported to have fled their homes" is exaggerated. It is known, however, that a dozen or more have fled in fear since the trouble started over attempts of Negroes, members of the N. A. A. C. P., in Haywood county to prepare themselves for voting by registering to vote in the 1940 general election next November.

The Call learned here Sunday that many Negro citizens were advised by the white people who disapprove of their efforts to get registered to flee the town under threat of serious trouble if they did not flee or returned after having fled.

One of the most startling stories yet related of the whole matter was that told in Memphis Friday night by Elisha Davis, 31, who is a life-long resident of Brownsville.

Davis, a filling station operator for five years, is allegedly the first Negro to flee Brownsville in fear of being bodily injured or even lynched. Davis claims he was forced away from his home by a white mob on Sunday, June 16, and has not seen his wife and seven children since a white mob took him to the river bottoms near Brownsville and told him never to return to Brownsville."

Tommy Davis younger brother of Elisha Davis, age 28, who is a porter at the Capitol theatre here in Brownsville, was picked up Thursday night, June 20, along with Elbert Williams, the lynch victim. The younger Davis, however, was later released and is reported to be in Nashville at present but fears to return here where the family owns valuable property and operates a filling station.

Details Story to N.A.A.C.P.

Elisha Davis told a complete and detailed story in Memphis Friday night to Walter White, executive secretary of the N.A.A.C.P. White questioned the elder Davis at some length.

Highlights of Davis' story follow:

He said he and four other Haywood county Negroes went to the Haywood county courthouse here in Brownsville to register Monday, May 6. "That started the trouble," he said.

"We went to see County Registrar 'Baby' Mann and told him we wanted to register" Davis said. "He sent us to see City Judge Pearson. The Judge wanted to know what committee we were. We told him we wanted to vote in the presidential election. He sent us to see a cotton man who is an election official, but he was out of town. We later learned that the books won't be open until August," Davis said.

"The next day a deputy or constable named T. Bolden warned Rev. Walker not to encourage Negroes to vote. He said there would be trouble if he did. He told Walker not to say he warned him.

Warns of "Serious Trouble"

"About two weeks later, a man named Straus Drumright came to me and said he had heard I was a member of some organization that was getting Negroes to vote. He said to let the thing drop, that if we tried to vote, there was going to be serious trouble. He said the people in the courthouse were going to run us out of town if we tried to vote."

Davis related how at 1 a.m. Sunday, June 16, a white mob came to his home and awoke him. He told of the presence of officers of the law being in the crowd which came to his home and named Tip Hunter, night city marshall, and police officer Charles Reid, as being among others who entered his home at the time. The police officers assisted him in dressing he said.

Davis named nine persons whom he postively recognized as members of the mob. He was put into the car with the two officers and another man and was driven about six miles out from the city in the section that is called "the river bottoms." He was questioned as to the aims and objectives of the N. A. A. C. P. "I told them the purpose of the N. A. A. C. P. was to vote if we want to and not to vote if we don't want to, and to make ourselves better colored citizens."

He related that the men wanted him to tell them the names of all the members of the N. A. A. C. P. They threatened to do him bodily harm, even threatening to kill him, if he didn't tell the names of all members of the N. A. A. C. P. in Brownsville or Haywood county. He said he named "two or three members." He was advised to "leave town and never return." They cursed him much, but none of them "laid a hand on me," he said.

Rev. Walker made an appeal at the Philadelphia N.A.A.C.P. national conference and gave a detailed description also of his experiences. From Philadelphia Walker went to Washington and related his story in detail to the head of the Civil Liberties division of the FBI of the Department of Justice, Louis Schweinhaut; and also to O. John Rogge, assistant United States attorney-general who gained national fame through prosecuting Louisiana politicians in the recent Louisiana Scandals.

When questioned by the press Mayor Bober of Brownsville said Negroes had talked with him about desiring to vote and said he didn't blame them for wanting to vote and didn't censure them for their aspirations. "Brownsville is shocked over this affair" he said in speaking of the recent Elbert Williams lynching.

Marshall Tip Hunter also admits questioning Davis and Williams as Davis states he did. He further admits the questioning continued for about three hours on the night of June 20. He claims they left the police station unmolested.

Many Negroes Stopped, Searched

Due to widespread reports of Brownsville police stopping, questioning and searching Negro motorists who enter Brownsville, the announcement was made in Memphis Saturday to the general assembly of the National Youth Conference of the Colored Methodist Episcopal church, and delegates motoring were urged to return to their homes by another way.

Motorists with cars bearing licenses issued for Jackson and Madison county were especially urged to go another route than through Brownsville because Brownsville's white citizens are especially incensed at them because of the part they played in setting up the Brownsville and Haywood chapter of the N. A. A. C. P.

There were serious objections recently to the appearance of J. Emmett Ballard, Jackson attorney, at the county court house to defend Solmon Bailey, who was charged with wounding a white man.

So strenuous were the objections that Sheriff R. C. Hawkins escorted Ballard as far as Bells in order to make sure there was no bodily harm done him. It is reported that on the following day after Ballard had been escorted from Brownsville, a white attorney represented the defendant Bally and he pleaded guilty and was sentence to a year in jail.

Two former Kansas Citians, Rev. B. Julian Smith former pastor of Jamison tempple, Kansas City, Mo., and Robert E. Reid, also of Kansas City and a member of Jamison temple, were stopped, questioned and searched, along with Prof. M. D. Merriweather, principal of the North Jackson elementary school Monday morning.

The Call correspondent was neither stopped, questioned nor searched by Brownsville officers.

DEATH A MYSTERY!



ELBERT WILLIAMS whose body was found in a swamp near Brownsville, Tenn.

Wife Gives Version Of Tennessee Lynching, Names Mob Characters

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—(SNS)—Mrs. Elbert Williams, widow of the Brownsville mob victim, Elbert Willams, whose badly beaten body was found in a river last week, came through Memphis last Tuesday afternoon. She, accompanied by her brother-in-law, Joe Boone, also of Brownsville, was en route to New York, where they plan to live away from the tense and frightening atmosphere of the small West Tennessee town which is their native home.

Mrs. Williams gave her version of what happened on the night her husband was last seen alive and of events that followed.

She appeared dazed and frightened even here in Memphis. She seemed to experience some difficulty in relating her story of the tragedy.

Mrs. Williams stated that on the night of the murder of her husband, police had come to their residence just as the family finished listening to the Louis-Godoy fight. Her husband was attired in his pajamas. The officer who knocked on the door asked to speak to Williams when his wife answered his knock.

The policeman asked Williams to come out on the porch. Mrs. Williams said she thinks the officer was Haywood County's sheriff-elect 'Tip' Hunter. She was not sure, since it was dark outside, and she could not get a clear look at his face.

Williams was taken out to the car, and his wife said she heard someone in the vehicle call "Dick, (Williams was known by that name to Brownsville intimates), tell him what you told me this afternoon."

Mrs. Williams said she thinks the man who spoke to her husband was Tommy Davis, brother of Elish Davis, both of whom had been questioned by officers previously. She thinks he had reference to the fact that he and Williams had been talking together. She said that Tommy Davis, and Williams had been discussing earlier the disposal of Elisha Davis's (Tommy's brother) filling station... which Elisha had been forced to leave after being ordered to leave town.

Mrs. Williams said that her husband got in the car and left with the men shortly after the conversation began. She put on her clothes and accompanied by her brother-in-law, went to Brownsville police station, to see, she said, what had happened, and to take her husband some clothes.

When she reached the station, the night policeman, Charles Reid, said that 'Williams was not there, that he had not seen him, and that he did not know him.' Mrs. Williams states that she could see that something was amiss with this statement as the car in which her husband left was standing in front of the police station.

She also mentioned seeing Mr. H. S. Dupree, Sr., father of her husband's employer at the Sun Laundry. She said Mr. Dupree remarked, when she told of wanting to get her husband some clothing, that 'Maybe he doesn't need any clothes.' She thinks her husband was in the station at the time.

The car which carried him to the station was believed by Joe Boone to belong to Milton Alderman, white Ford plant mechanic. He seemed positive that it wasn't Alderman's car which picked up Williams at his home.

Mrs. Williams and Boone stated that they saw Tommy Davis, who had been in the car with Elbert Williams, and asked him what had happened. He couldn't tell them anything definite. Davis had been allowed to go free, Mrs. Williams and Boone stated that they did not know why he was taken up the first time.

Boone and Mrs. Williams stated Williams was not a member of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, the organization blamed for the effort of a colored committee to get the right to vote in the coming presidential election, and whose activity precipitated the trouble.

In giving her version of why her husband might have been killed Mrs. Williams stated that she felt that Elbert Williams was a close friend of Buster Walker and Elisha Davis, leading spirits in the vote movement. Both were ordered to leave town. They left. Walker reported the situation to NAACP officials in Washington, and there was apparently a feeling among the white officials that Davis and Walker were stirring up trouble from the outside.

They were anxious to locate the two. Therefore, since Williams was a close freind of the missing men, he was taken into custody and questioned as to their whereabouts. Mrs. Williams stated that her husband did not know where the men were. She thinks he was beaten by the officers in an attempt to force him to tell them where to find the men.

She and Boone think that inasmuch as Williams was beaten severely about the head, that he might have been injured worse than the officers suspected. And when it was apparent that he was dying, they tied his body and threw it in the river to cover up their deed.

That is Mrs. Williams and Boones theory of what happened and the only reason why they feel Williams was killed.

They stated that conditions in Brownsville are quieter now, but when asked if they would think of returning, declared emphatically that they would not.

They disclosed that many of the white officials and other men involved in the affair are now leaving town on extended vacations, ostensibly to be absent when the Haywood County Grand Jury meets in August to conduct a hearing on the case.

Mrs. Williams and Boone left town Tuesday night for New York, where Boone has relatives.

It is not known what developments have come out of the investigation reportedly being conducted by District Attorney William McClanahan's office here, in the effort to determine whether a Federal offense has been committed by the Brownsville men.

Mrs. Williams said that many of the Brownsville colored people had experienced difficulty in learning of developments around the case, because one store where they had been in the habit of purchasing copies of the Memphis Press Scimitar, in which the most informative stories have been appearing, had refused to sell the paper to colored people, declaring that no more copies were available.

Approximately ten or twelve of Brownsville's leading colored citizens have left town, and are not expected to return. Colored business districts are said to be largely deserted. And there has been no large public gathering since the outbreak of the trouble. Police officers are patrolling the coolred sections. And Mrs. Williams states that many colored people have been advised against talking to strangers or other outsiders.

In the case of Elisha Davis's filling station, it was disclosed that Davis's wife (her husband was ordered out of town..and left his business, wife, and seven children) had gone to Sheriff Hawkins of Brownsville and asked him about re-opening the station in order to provide support for her children.

Boone and Mrs. Williams state that he is said to have told her to 'get $40 and a lawyer,' ostensibly in a move to force her to leave the community also.

Leon A. Ransom, also of the legal committee.

Local Whites Incensed

Williams, along with the Rev. Mr. Walker and Elisha Davis, led a group of N.A.A.C.P. members to the courthouse in Brownsville to qualify to vote in the coming election. This action so incensed local whites that they forced the three men to leave town. Since that time more than seven other Negroes have been forced to flee.

Because Negroes comprise three-fourths of the 19,000 population of Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood County, Tenn., whites have tried to discourage them from voting. They have discharged Negroes from jobs, refused credit in local banks to all known Negro N.A.A.C.P. members, threatened to discontinue Negro teachers in their jobs, and have been reported to have opened mail sent from the N.A.A.C.P. officials of the local branch.

After a stirring plea before the thirty-first annual N.A.A.C.P. conference at Tindley Temple in Philadelphia June 21, the Rev. Mr. Walker was given a spontaneous collection of $155.47 from the delegates present at the morning discussion meeting to start a defense fund. He told delegates to the conference that he intended to go back to continue the fight "for my people."

BODY OF N.A.A.C.P. LEADER FISHED OUT OF RIVER

Tennessee Mob Raids Section After Drive For Vote is Started

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn. — The body of Elbert Williams, one time leader of the local N.A.A.C.P.-sponsored campaign to get Negro citizens here to vote, was fished up from a nearby river, Sunday, June 23, officials of the association announced in New York this week.

This was the first death of a Negro (regarded by citizens as an off-the-record lynching) at the hands of whites here since white mobbists began terrorizing Negroes when the vote campaign started here several months ago.

The national office of the N.A.A.C.P. announced that the Rev. Buster Walker president of the local branch of the association, who has been active in the leadership of the voting campaign, was scheduled to hold a conference in Washington, June 24, with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge relative to a Justice Department investigation of the Brownsville situation.

The Rev. Mr. Walker was accompanied by Dean William H. Hastie, chairman of the national N.A.A.C.P. legal committee, and

Mob Runs Cleric Out Town For Demanding Vote Right:

Imagine a man a minister of the gospel, being able to maintain his equilibrium after being driven from the town where he was born and raised by a blood-thirsty white mob.

There is such a man, the Rev. Buster Walker, president of the Brownsville, Tenn. branch of the NAACP, who tells a harrowing tale of being threatened with lynching and forced to flee his home because he demanded his right to vote.

In Philadelphia for the 31st annual conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Rev. Walker disclosed the facts concerning this most recent atrocity at a session of the conference, last Friday, at Tindley Temple M. E. Church, Broad and Fitzwater streets.

DELEGATES ARE MOVED

And that delegates to the NAACP conference, white and colored, were aroused, incensed and angered there are no doubts, because after hearing Rev. Walker's story they contributed a purse of $155 to help him in his hour of need.

Moreover the conference went on record as unanimously condemning the actions of white officials of Brownsville, who permitted such an act to take place, and telegraphed a resolution to the Governor of Tennessee and the Department of Justice demanding an investigation.

Rev. Walker tells his story in his own words:

"We began to hear some little things that were said about the organization (the NAACP) by whites. We continued our work, however, and had no direct communication from them (the whites) until Armistice Day, last November.

"Usually the American Legion each year gives a banquet at the high school. A few of the members are members of the NAACP and a few are not. So they decided we could have a joint banquet in the school house.

SCHOOL BOARD INVOLVED

"This got to the ears of the Board of Education," he continued, "and the superintendent was ordered by the chairman to write us a letter saying we would not be able to use the school house on that occasion.

"Then a committee of six of us went to the chairman and took the letter to him, asking if he ordered such a letter written. He said he did, declaring that he had heard our organization was out to stir up trouble.

"And when we went on with plans for the banquet, we were harassed, intimidated and the teachers who supported us were threatened with the loss of their jobs."

The minister then revealed how J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro attorney, was also run out of Brownsville for trying to defend a Negro youth accused of shooting a white man.

"On the day of the trial," Rev. Walker said, "a mob was formed in the courthouse, and a sheriff had to rescue Lawyer Ballard and escort him out of town.

TURNED ON MINISTER

"After that, they started on me. They said I proposed to stir up trouble, and that I knew better than to make any provisions for a Negro lawyer to appear in that court.

"They also said: 'n—r, you're talking about voting?' I said 'yes.' They then told me that no Negro was going to vote in that county; that I was getting along pretty good, as it was, and should be contented."

The Rev. Mr. Walker, who is 53 years old, and has never cast a vote in his life, was indignant, and made the fact known by saying so quite emphatically.

"Mr. Reed," he declared, addressing the spokesman for the white, a former Mayor of Brownsville, "I have never voted in my life, and I have raised no stir about voting. I have kept quiet, thus far."

By that time, he said, he was getting "hot" under the collar and told Reed that the whites had run the county, the Negroes had never had any voice; that policemen had, when they seen fit, beaten Negroes unmercifully.

HE SPOKE HIS MIND

"But now," he told the white man, "the situation is changed."

That evidently made the whites "hot" under the collar, too, because it wasn't long, according to his own statement, before Rev. Walker, himself was on his way out of Brownsville.

The Baptist minister, the victim, until his "run-in" with the whites, was one of the leading citizens of Brownsville.

He realizes, however, that now he won't be able to boast such an honor for some time to come.

"But I'm gonna make a comeback," he declared in a tone that sounded like a vow.



Roy Wilkins, secretary, the NAACP, presents envelope with $151 to the Rev. Buster Walker, who was run out of Brownsville, for leading his people to vote

Body of Negro Leader Found in River Bears Witness Against F.D.R.'s Stab-in-the-Back of Anti-Lynch Bill

By Ben Davis, Jr.

The body of Elbert Williams, a Negro worker active in a campaign to get the vote for his people in Tennessee, was fished up from a river near Brownsville, Tenn., it was announced here yesterday.

The lynching was in accordance with the new technique of streamlined underground mob violence.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People released the information from its offices at 69 Fifth Ave.

Williams was the victim of wild reign of mob violence in Brownsville, near Jackson, Tenn.

Meanwhile, Pres. Roosevelt sits by quietly acquiescing in the attempts of the Republicans and Democrats in the Senate to lynch the anti-lynch bill.

The lynch terror against the Negro people in the town was described by the Rev. Buster Walker, Negro minister of Brownsville, who told a hair-raising story to the recent conference of the NAACP in Philadelphia.

Rev. Walker, himself narrowly escaped lynching and had barely escaped the mob, when he appeared at the conference. He was forced to leave his family and possessions behind.

"Officials of the town told me that they were just not going to permit Negroes to vote," he said in a speech to the conference.

"You people have very little idea how the Negroes are treated there."

Williams, along with Rev. Walker, and Elisha Davis, led a group of Negroes to the court house in Brownsville to register to vote. The officials became so incensed that the three men to leave town, and seven other Negroes have had to flee leaving their belongings in the town. A Negro lawyer called in to assist the Negroes was also driven from the town.

Other Negroes are missing and it is feared that some of them may have been lynched also.

Rev. Walker was president of the local NAACP branch, which the officials of the town broke up.

Negroes comprise three fourths of the Brownsville's 19,000 population, but the landlord officials deny them every constitutional right. Negroes are discharged from their jobs, refused credit in all local banks Negro teachers in the inadequate jim-crow schools have been threatened, and U. S. mail to Negroes has been opened by the town authorities in violation of federal law.

Rev. Walker's stirring plea before the NAACP conference brought the delegates to their feet. They immediately collected a fund of $155.47 on the spot, and the militant indignation of the delegates reached its highest point.

He told delegates that he intended to go back to the community to "continue the fight for my people."

The NAACP declared yesterday that a delegation of its lawyers had been designated to report the Brownsville situation to Assistant U. S. Attorney General O. John Rogge

But it is clear that unless the Negro people, labor, and fair-minded white Americans throughout the country raise their voice, no action will be taken. A half dozen or more cases have been presented to the Department of Justice thus far, but it always finds some "technicality" for whitewashing the case, or taking no action. Busy persecuting labor under the "anti-trust" laws, and leaving no stone to hound the foreign - born, Communists and other progressives, J. Edgar Hoover is utterly callous to the fierce Klan violations of the Negro's constitutional rights.

Protests should be sent to Pres. Roosevelt who is responsible for this criminal neglect by the Department of Justice, and whose failure to speak out for the anti-lynching bill is a go-ahead signal for such outrageous crimes as that in Brownsville. Unquestionably, this lynching is a part of the whole war hysteria which stems from the Administration "defense" program and which is breaking out against religious and other minorities all over the land.

FIND BODY OF ONE OF NAACP LEADERS IN FIGHT IN RIVER

Ten Driven From Homes

Rev. Brown Faces Mob In Brownville, Tenn. Terror Reigns

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.— The body of Elbert Williams, one of the leaders in the local N. A. A. C. P.-sponsored campaign to get Negro citizens here to vote, was fished up from a nearby river Sunday, June 23, officials of the association announced in New York today.

This was the first death of a Negro (regarded by citizens as an off-the-record lynching) at the hands of whites here since white mobbists began terrorizing Negroes, when the vote campaign started here several months ago.

The National office of the N. A. A. C. P. announced today that the Rev. Buster Walker, the president of the local branch of the association, who has been active in the leadership of the voting campaign, was scheduled to hold a conference in Washington June 24 with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge, relative to a Justice Department investigation of the Brownsville situation. The Rev. Mr. Walker was accompanied by Dean William H. Hastie, chairman of the legal committee.

Forced to Flee.

Williams, along with the Rev.

Forced To Flee Tennessee Mob



Elisha Davis, a prominent business man of Brownsville was among those forced to leave his home and wife and seven children because of his N.A.A.C.P. Affiliations.

Mr. Walker, and Elisha Davis, led a group of N. A. A. C. P. members to the Court House in Brownsville to qualify to vote in the coming election. This action so incensed local whites that they forced the three men to leave town. Since that time more than seven other Negroes have been forced to flee.

Because Negroes comprise three-fourths of the 19,000 population of Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood County, Tennessee, whites have tried to discourage them from voting. They have discharged Negroes from jobs, refused credits in local banks to all known Negro N. A. A. C. P. members, threatened to discontinue Negro teachers in their jobs, and have been reported to have opened mail sent from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to officials of the local branch.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

TENNESSEE

6620

Mobsters Freed by Court After 'Quiet' Lynching in Tenn.

Negro Youth, Whose Battered Body Was Found in Ditch Was Previously Shot at By Vigilante Storekeeper Over Small Debt

Daily Worker 3-4-40

The death of Jesse Lee Bonds, 20-year-old Negro tenant farmer, whose battered body was fished up out of a drainage canal near Arlington, Tennessee, not far from Memphis, by a deputy sheriff, May 2, 1939, was cited as an example of an unidentified lynching by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People here yesterday.

Two white men, Charles Wilson, Arlington storekeeper, and his associate William Johnson, who are said to have led a band of white hoodlums in a chase after Bonds on April 28, were later arrested and held in Shelby County jail, charged with Bond's murder.

The story behind the murder charge against Wilson and Johnson, who were freed January 23, 1940, by Criminal Court Judge Wallace, in Memphis, upon the recommendation of Attorney General Marion S. Boyd, traces the activities of these men up to the time that witnesses said they saw Bonds running for his life, after shots had been fired at him. From April 28, to May 2, 1939, no trace was found of Bonds until his body was taken from the canal by a deputy sheriff.

TWELVE DOLLAR DEBT

Young Bonds lived with his family in Shelby County near Arlington, Tennessee. In the spring of 1939 he owed a debt of twelve dollars to Wilson, who ran a grocery store in Arlington. On the morning of April 28, 1939, William Johnson who was an associate of Wilson came to Bonds' home and asked the latter to come down to the store because Wilson wanted to talk to him.

Miss Anna Bonds, Jesse's aunt and a teacher in Arlington, went along, to assure Wilson that she would stand for the debt, for both of them felt sure that was what Wilson wanted.

When they arrived at the store, Johnson was standing near the front door. Wilson was in the rear of the store. When the two of them entered, Wilson began cursing and took a pistol from behind the counter. Johnson is said to have then shot at Bonds. Bonds escaped from the store, and ran down the road. Wilson and Johnson are said to have started after him, only to return to the store and leave together in an automobile.

It is thought that Bonds was not hit by this firing because people in the community reported that they saw him running apparently unhurt. One woman reported that he threw off his coat as he passed through her back yard. A white woman, who was in the community at the time, but lives in Memphis, said that she was willing to testify that she saw Bonds being dragged toward the river bottoms by a group of men including Wilson and Johnson.

Unidentified Lynching Cited

Daily Worker 3-5-40

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LIVED NEAR ARLINGTON

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SAW BONDS DRAGGED TO BOTTOMS

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new technique in lynching, devoid of "Roman holiday" atmosphere, she added, "There have been no actual cases of lynching reported this year, but three negroes have been killed in Atlanta while resisting arrest." She did not expand on this remark.

Sheriff R. C. Hawkins at Brownsville said the body of Everett Williams, 33-year-old negro, was found in a swamp Sunday. A coroner's jury charged the death to "violence at the hands of unknown parties." The sheriff said "we are investigating" and declined to comment on the interpretation of Mrs. Ames, who is secretary of the Southern Association of Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

West Palm Beach, Fla. Times
June 25, 1940

Speaker Reports "Quiet" Lynching

MEMPHIS, Tenn., June 25 (AP)—Reporting a recent quiet lynching, a Southern foe of mob violence last night opposed Federal anti-lynching legislation, holding such a law "couldn't do any good", because "the style of lynching has changed so."

Speaking before a city interracial meeting, Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta said a negro at nearby Brownsville, Tenn., was "quietly taken out and flogged to death" because he was interested in organizing a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Citing this as an instance of a

Jackson, Tenn. Sun
June 25, 1940

Body In River Starts Report Of Mob Action

Interracial Leader Says "New Style Lynching" At Brownsville

An interracial relations meeting last night at Memphis heard a report of a lynching—minus the "Roman holiday" atmosphere with its resulting publicity—at Brownsville last week.

Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames of Atlanta, field secretary of the Commission on Interracial Relations, referred to the alleged slaying as an example of the new "style" of lynching which attracts little attention.

She said she had been told at Memphis that a Brownsville negro had been "quietly taken out and flogged to death" because he was interested in organizing a chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Sheriff R. C. Hawkins of Brownsville said today a negro's body had been found by fishermen in the Hatchie river swamps Sunday. The coroner's verdict, he said, was that the man was "believed to have come to death by violence at the hands of unknown parties."

The body had been in the water too long for him to determine the exact cause of death, Hawkins reported. A relative identified the negro as Everett Williams, 33, a laundry worker, the officer said.

"We are investigating the matter," the sheriff said but refused to discuss any developments that may have resulted from his investigation thus far. He said no arrests have been made.

C. A. Rawls, negro undertaker at Brownsville, said the body when removed from the river was in such a state of decomposition that he could not tell whether or not it had bourne marks of violence. He said Williams' body apparently had been in the river for two or three days.

Rawls, who said he was not a member of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, said a chapter of the organization had been formed at Brownsville about 18 months ago, but that "the president had left" and he thought the organization was scattered" and had ceased to function.

The Brownsville incident came to last night when Mrs. Ames was asked about the anti-lynching bill under consideration by congress.

"I have never been for the bill. The style of lynching has changed so. There have been no actual cases of lynching this year, but three negroes have been killed in Atlanta while resisting arrest," she answered.

Then it was she who referred to the Brownsville negro being "flogged to death."

Turning to negroes present at the meeting, she said:

"That's right, isn't it?"

Several nodded assent.

"They don't go in for a Roman holiday anymore. The lynching law couldn't do any good," she added.

REVEAL LYNCHING THREATS AGAINST VOTE ASPIRANTS

NAACP Issues Reports To F.D.R. and Justice Department Officials

NEW YORK. The NAACP has plaied before President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice a report which listed the names of leaders in the mob of sixty whites who drove seven prominent Negroes out of Brownsville, Tenn., last week following the lynching of Elbert Williams, June 22, and the institution of a reign of terror against Negroes that is still in force.

The report was sent to the President following a three-day investigation of the lynching by Walter White, secretary of the NAACP.

Williams, a 33-year-old laundry fireman "disappeared" after he had helped to organize the Negroes in Brownsville, county seat of Haywood County, Tenn., in a "register-and-vote" drive preparatory to the 1940 Presidential election, next November.

The names of the mob leaders included two bank officials, several police officers, a State highway commissioner, and several merchants. Williams's body was fished up from a river near Brownsville on Sunday, June 23. There were two stab or bullet wounds showing on his chest. His head was battered and beaten to twice its normal size. His arms and feet were tied with rope and his body weighted down by a heavy lok tied around his neck.

The report gives the following account of the incidents leading up to the present reign of terror now operating in Brownsville:

Seek Voting Advice

On May 6, the Rev. Buster Walker, John Lester, and John Gaines, both farmers; Taylor Newborn, owner of a dry cleaning plant; and Elisha Davis, owner of a filling station, went to County Registrar Mann's office advising him that they wished to register and vote in the Presidential election.

Mann sent them to City Judge Pearson, who asked them: "What committee is this?" They replied that they were simply seeking advice about how to qualify to vote in the 1940 Presidential election. Judge Pearson, in turn, referred them to Jonas Steinberger, a cotton buyer and chairman of the elections committee.

Mr. Steinberger was out of the city, so the five individuals and the other colored people, having learned in the meantime that the registration booths would not open until August, let the matter rest.

But on the following day Deputy Sheriff T. Bolden went to the Rev. Mr. Walker, and threatened him, saying that he had better "stop encouraging Negroes to vote or there will be trouble. Don't say I warned you," he said.

More Threats

Nothing further was heard until two weeks later when Strauss Drumright, unemployed, went to Elisha Davis's filling station to tell him that he heard that Mr. Davis was "a member of some organization getting Negroes to vote."

He told him to "let that thing drop or Negroes will get into some serious trouble. The people down at the courthouse say they will run you and Walker out of town if you try to vote."

On June 3, J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro lawyer, came to Brownville, the county seat of Haywood Coutny, Tenn., to try a case for a Negro client accused of shooting at a white man. Ballard was escorted out of town by police officials, when a mob threatened his life inside the courtroom.

At 1 o'clock in the morning, Sunday, June 16, Elisha Davis was aroused from sleep by a mob of whites who pounded on his door. He was told to come down and prepare to leave home. Before he was led away, his wife, mother and his seven children, asked that her husband's life be spared. She was told by one of the police officers: "You'll never see this black son ____ again. We are going to kill him."

Asked About NAACP

Davis was hustled into an automobile by leaders of the mob, and carried to the "river bottom" six miles away. Here he was questioned about the purposes of the NAACP, and asked to give the names of members in the organization.

He told members of the mob that the organization was urging Negro citizens to "vote if we want to and not to vote if we don't want to and to make better citizens."

Davis gave the names of several persons whom the mob knew of, when he was threatened with death unless he told the names of all those who intended to vote.

He was then taken to the edge of town and told never to return on pain of death. Davis walked eight or nine miles finally arriving in Jackson, Tenn., where he is staying temporarily for safety.

Brownsville Police Plan Lynch Quiz After Man's Death

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—(AP)—The death of Everett Williams, 33, reportedly the victim of an unidentified lynching party, will be investigated by federal authorities, it was announced this week by United States Dist. Attorney William McClanhan. Williams' death, following closely the ousting from Brownsville last May of a colored attorney, is believed by observers to have been a direct consequence of this incident. Other reports are that Williams was killed because of recent attempts of he and other Brownsville Negroes to arange voting privileges for Negroes in the coming presidential election.

Local police report that Williams and Tommy Davis were picked up and held for investigation June 20, the night of Williams' disappearance, by Night City Marshal Tip Hunter, after they were suspecting of organizing Brownsville Negroes to protest treatment accorded the lawyer. Hunter said he picked up the two men after he had been tipped off that four cars of Northern Negroes were in town.

"After questioning them three hours in regard to the reported called meeting of local and Jackson members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People with the Northern Negroes, I turned them loose and they both walked away from the station unmolested," Hunter said.

Williams' body was found in the Hatchie river Sunday with indications that he had been slain and his body thrown there.

Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. secretary, is understood to have conducted a quiet study of the case on behalf of his organization, which resulted in the Federal probe. Williams is thought to have been connected with the N. A. A. C. P.

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LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

TENNESSEE

FDR Asked Third Time to End Lynch Terror Against Tennessee Negroes

Failing to answer two previous appeals to curb lynch terror against Negroes, President Roosevelt yesterday received a third urging action to wipe out the reign of lawlessness against Negroes in Brownsville, Tenn.

The appeal was sent by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue. All appeals followed the lynching of Elbert Williams, 33-year old Negro, whose body was recently found in a creek near Brownsville after he had led a right-to-vote movement among disfranchised Negroes.

"Because this Brownsville situation involves lynching and the right to vote, this association feels it is imperative that every effort be exerted to wipe out this lawlessness at once," the NAACP statement to President Roosevelt said.

Meanwhile an urgent and tragic request for aid has been made by Elisha Davis, one of the half-dozen Negro men driven from their homes by lynch mobs in Brownsville during the height of lynch terror. Mr. Davis addressed his appeal for aid to the NAACP.

IN HIDING

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occasions, lynchers from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

The fury of the mob is directed against members of the Brownsville chapter of the NAACP. All efforts to hold a meeting have been broken up. The president of the Brownsville NAACP, the Reverend [illegible], has been [illegible] town. All other colored people "suspected" of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized.

Davis, who was active in the NAACP branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city. For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children, or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

NEGRO PAPERS BANNED

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville, and the Negro people there do not know whether anything is being done in their behalf or not. No "strange" Negroes are allowed in the city.

At the present time, the federal anti-lynching bill is bottled up in the Senate, where it has been stabbed in the back by both the Roosevelt Administration and the Republican Party representatives. Although both parties intend to put up a major effort to angle for the Negro vote in the 1940 election campaign, the platforms of neither party call for passage of the anti-lynching bill or the Geyer anti-poll tax bill.

The Department of Justice claims to be "investigating" the Brownsville situation, but no action has been taken against any of the individuals guilty of the Elbert Williams lynching. The NAACP in a previous communication to the FBI and to President Roosevelt, even furnished the names of the bankers, policemen, and the highway commissioner who participated in the affair.

The lynch terror against the Negroes in Brownsville is a direct contravention of the 15th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to vote. The reactionary campaign, led by the "leading citizens" of the town, is a direct attempt to prevent the Negro people from exercising their rights under this amendment. Upon this authority, the FBI could move immediately into action.

NAACP APPEAL

The NAACP's present and third appeal to President Roosevelt said

"We appeal once more for action by your office to safeguard the citizenship rights of American Negroes in Brownsville, Tenn. The whole situation in Brownsville arose when law-abiding property holding colored citizens of that town evidenced their desire to register and vote in the coming November election. The result of this action was the lynching of Elbert Williams, 33, and the driving from the city of a half dozen or more citizens who were members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The entire Negro population of Brownsville has been terrorized by mobs which have extended their threats to neighboring communities believed to be sheltering exiles from Brownsville

"We understand Department of Justice agents are investigating specific lynching of Elbert Williams, but we urge that the issue is much greater than this and that all possible pressure must be exerted to the end that Brownsville lynchers are punished and Brownsville Negro citizens freed from terror. Most recent authenticated story is that one Negro Brownsville citizen proprietor of a filling station and father of seven children not only dares not return home but dares not accept employment in neighboring city because of threats from Brownsville whites.

"Meanwhile his wife is expecting the eighth child and is in dire need of medical attention and financial support. Because this Brownsville situation involves lynching and the right to vote for President of the United States, this association feels it is imperative that every effort be exerted to wipe out this lawlessness at once and permit these peaceful people to pursue their normal way of life."



Last Thursday's meeting of all Section Daily Worker Directors in the city resulted in many sound methods of work being planned. In addition to proposing a basic minimum of five Daily Workers a day and ten Sunday Workers per week for each Branch the meeting worked out a plan whereby the active comrades in the branches would be the hub around which work would be started directly. Then, these active comrades would recruit into activity inactive comrades by personal and direct contact with them. Another good idea proposed was that the group as a whole finance the canvassing with Daily and Sunday Workers. In this manner responsibility for the work would be widened and shared.

At a meeting of branch organizers in the 18th Assembly District, Kings, the following plan of work on the Daily was adopted: (A) Each group to order at least 5 Daily and 5 Sunday Workers each week. (B) All meetings to have Daily Workers on hand. (C) Saturday night sales of the Sunday Worker to be developed. (D) One Red Sunday a month, first one August 4. (E) A weekly check on Branch Daily Worker orders. (F) Each Branch to have a responsible comrade for Branch Daily Worker Director. (G) Old contact lists to be basis for carrier routes.

The August 4 issue of the Sunday Worker will be a special peace issue. Prepare plans for special work on the Sunday Worker. (Out of town districts will be contacted on this also.)

From John Arnold, English columnist on the Morning Freiheit, we get this interesting note: "Failure to have both the Daily Worker and the Freiheit in canvassing in a Jewish community is failure to meet the needs of the community. Sell the Freiheit to Yiddish speaking Jews and the Daily to English speaking Jews." Particularly now—with the Jewish people vitally interested in Bessarabia—should we do this.

Memo to Branch Daily Worker Directors in the First Assembly District, Manhattan. You are having a meeting on Wednesday, July 24, 8:30 P. M. Contact your Section. Make sure you attend.

BODY OF MAN WHO LED FIGHT FOR RACE FOUND IN RIVER

Tennessee Whites Stage Terror Campaign—Colored Citizens Forced to Leave Town—Justice Department Probe May Be Sought.

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., July 3.—In the horrifying wake of a bitter campaign against Negroes who dared to seek their democratic rights, death and terrorism reigned supreme here this week as the youthful body of Everett Williams was laid to rest, symbolic of Dixie's racial exploitation.

Waging a courageous battle for Negro rights, Williams ignored threats of white bloodlums and paid with his life as a result. The 38-year-old leader of his race was in the midst of an N.A.A.C.P. drive which was designed to encourage Negroes here to take advantage of the ballot. When he refused to heed the warnings of opposing whites, he was whisked away in the night and drowned in a nearby river, Sunday, June 23.

He was fished up from his watery grave three days later.

Following the death of Williams, a concerted drive against leading Negroes was launched, resulting in attacks against E. Davis, the Rev. Buster Walker and a Pittsburgh Courier news agent. Davis and Walker were ordered to leave town, while the news agent's whereabouts are still unknown.

The national office of the N. A. A. C. P., announced this week that the Rev. Mr. Walker, president of the local branch, held a conferance in Washington, June 24, with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge, relative to a Justice Department investigation.

Another clergyman, the Rev. H B. Gibson, entered the fight this week and insisted that Judge W W. Bond call a special session o the Hayward County Grand Jury.

According to R. C. Hawkins, county sheriff, Judge Bond conferred with him after the Coroner's Jury returned a verdict of "death in an unknown manner," and will call for an investigation by the Grand Jury.

Report of the alleged Brownsville killing was made public by Mrs. J. D. Ames, of Atlanta, Ga., field secretary of the Commission On Interracial Relations, who stated it had been reported to her that because of his interest in organizing a local chapter of the N. A. A. C. P., Williams was quietly spirited to a deserted spot and flogged to death.

Mrs. Ames made her report at a meeting here last week.

Mob Victim Seeks Help; Wife In Need

NEW YORK—(SNS—An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the NAACP here from Tenn asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownsville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

A letter from a town in Tenn. where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than five months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownsville. Already on two occasions, white people from Brownsville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

A Brownsville mob has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a part of the terror being unloosed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the NAACP has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

The fury of the mob is directed especially against members of the Brownsville chapter of the NAACP. All efforts to hold a meeting have been brokenup. The president of the Brownsville NAACP, the Rev. Buster Walker, has been driven out of town. All other colored people suspected of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized. White people even have gone to neighboring towns where they suspect the exiles to be hiding and warned that they would be killed upon sight.

Elisha Davis, who was active in the NAACP branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city. For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children, or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville, and the colored people there do not know whether anything is being done or not. No strange Negroes are allowed in the city.

Despite the terror in Brownsville and vicinity and the threats against NAACP officers in other parts of Tenn., the local officers are determined to carry on the work and have indicated that they will not be frightened by the mobs.

The NAACP headquarters here is appealing for contributions for relief of the families and for the carrying on of the fight to clean up Brownsville. Contributions should be sent to the NAACP at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks should be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

They Have Not Died in Vain

The Negroes who were lynched in Brownsville, Tenn., to discourage their attempts at registering have not died in vain. Just as the blood of the martyrs was the seed of the church, indignation at this high-handed interference with citizens in their most precious right will set many to thinking about voting.

There was a time when Negroes took it for granted that they must not vote. The shotgun was the rule of 30 years ago. Those were the days when a complacent North accepted the South's claim that it knew best what to do with its blacks. But not so any longer. From that fateful day when Charles, a man with a mission if ever there was one, died for his human rights on the streets of New Orleans, more and more Negroes have been willing to look death in the face and say it was a small price to pay for being a man.

No, these martyrs have not died in vain whether Tennessee finds their murderers or not. They have not died in vain, if the Negro politicians who have the most to gain by universal suffrage, continue to be willing tools of those who want disfranchisement. In the lives of a people the day comes when the old must make way for the new. Better things in the promised land were not for those who looked back with yearning on the flesh pots of Egypt. The political fixers who have been brass hats in the days of disfranchisement cannot and will not learn. Out of the soil were these Tennessee martyrs died will spring up determined men who will vote as God and the Constitution give them a right to do. In the meanwhile their piteous deaths serve to bring out in bold relief the contemptible sham Negroes' leadership has been to accept disfranchisement.

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Nashville Citizens Of Both Races Join In Protest Of Mob

Nashville Globe and Independent
Sept. 6. 1940

Big Mass Meeting Flays Senator McKellar And Gov. Cooper; Takes Stand Against Draft

A crowd of several hundred persons, among whom were many of our prominent white people answered the call for the big mass meeting at St. John A. M. E. church which was held on Thursday night of last week, the purpose of which was to hear the noted Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People give the facts with regard to the brutal lynching of Elbert Williams at Brownsville several months ago. The studied effort of Brownsville's leadership and daily newspapers of the state to suppress the news of the lynching had served to sharpen the interest of local people of both races in the affair. All who know Mr. White from reputation were satisfied that he would talk about lynchings in general and the latest one in Tennessee in particular, without fear or favor. The Georgia-born crusader against mob violence did not disappoint his great audience.

In addition to Mr. White, the audience got a chance to see some of the other refuges from Brownsville, men and women who had been ordered to leave the west Tennessee town for making an effort to qualify for voting in the coming Presidential election. These persons, as Mr. White aptly put it had been run away from their homes, made to give up their means of a livelihood for trying to do what the Constitution of their country gives them the right to do. They were fugitives from INJUSTICE, he said.

There was harmonious agreement in the large crowd with all that was said about the Brownsville atrocity but, as was to be expected in politically-minded Nashville there was dissent from resolutions which condemned Senator K. D. McKellar for his work in helping to defeat the Federil Anti-Lynching Bill and Gov. Prentice Cooper for the feeble and indifferent attitude he took toward bringing to justice the lynchers in the state of which he is the chief law-enforcement officer. A few local politicians of both sexes did not think Gov. Coope ror Senator McKellar should be criticised. However the resolutions were adopted overwhelmingly.

There was likewise some "tenderfoot" objection to having the mass meeting go on record against the Conscription Bill as offered by Will J. Hale, Jr., however this opposition was snuffed out by an overwhelming vote, also Young Negroes are strongly opposed to Conscription, which is looked upon as a step toward going into another war to help save democracy in Europe. They think that America ought to get some democracy in Brownsville before meddling in Europe. This was the sentiment prompting the resolution on opposing Conscription in time of peace.

The mass meeting opened with the singing of "America." Prayer was offered by Rev. F. D. Coleman, pastor of the church. A short but forceful address was made by the Rev. Pickens Johnson, who represented the Nashville Pastors' Association. Rev. Johnson condemned mob violence and deplored the action of Brownsville people who ran colored citizens out of the town merely because they sought the privilege of voting. The congregation sang "Lift every voice and sing," as its closing number. Benediction was offered by Rev. W. J. Faulkner, dean of men and ministers at Fisk University

Excerpts from the speech of Walter white are as follows:

"On Monday in New York City Congressman Martin Dies of Texas declared that Adolf Hitler's plan and hope to conquer America as he has destroyed France and Belgium and the Scandinavian countries is through capitalizing racial prejudices and antagonisms here. The white people of Brownsville, Tenn., who last June lynched Elbert Williams and drove seven other Negroes from their homes thereby helped Hitler and deserve a letter of thanks from the Nazi leader. In every part of the country the viciousness of what took place last June at Brownsville has induced a spirit of resentment or despair which is the very kind of soil Hitler is counting on to destroy democracy here.

"The grand jury report that no evidence could be found as to the perpetrators of that outrage is ridiculous. I am no expert investigator but in a very few days I was able to gather concrete evidence establishing the participation of thirteen persons in the kidnapping and murder of Williams and the driving out of seven other Negroes from Brownsville. All this evidence and the names of witnesses willing and eager to testify have been placed in the hands of the United States Attorney at Memphis and the Department of Justice at Washington. Section 18 of Title 51 of the United States Criminal Code, the conspiracy statute, clearly covers the Brownsville case. It provides for and requires federal action when two or more persons conspire together to deprive another person of the rights due him under the Federal Constitution. The sole reason for the Brownsville affair was the asking by these Negro citizens of what they should do to qualify and register so that they might vote in next November's election of a president and vice president of the United States. We maintain that the conspiracy to prevent their doing so is a clear and unmistakable violation of this Federal statute and we insist that the law be enforced to the fullest extent.

"In 1938 your Senator Kenneth McKellar was one of the most active opponents of the Wagner-Van Nuys-Gavagan Federal Anti-Lynching bill during the seven-weeks fillibuster which cost the American taxpayer nearly a half million dollars. During the course of that long and bitter fight, Senator McKellar put into the Congressional Record of January 17, 1938 telegrams from the governors of fifteen Southern states, one of them being the then Governor of Tennessee, which stated that no Federal legislation against lynching was needed as the states could and would act vigorously, promptly and honestly to prevent lynchings and punish lynchers. The Brownsville lynching clearly shows how much faith can be placed in those pledges. As fa ras the public record shows, the State of Tennessee has done absolutely nothing to punish Williams' lynchers whose identities are known, and obviously does not propose to do anything. It is therefore imperative that the fight for Federal legislation must be renewed and doubled in intensity, since once more the impotence of the states has been demonstrated.

"Dark and perilous days lie ahead of America. The tides of totalitarianism sweep ominously down upon the shores of what some orators call "the last remaining democracy." We ask America if she wants the twelve million Negroes of this country to believe in their country's honesty when it says it opposes race hatred and bigotry and dictatorship. If so then America must wipe out the kind of Hitlerite bigotry for which the Brownsville tragedy stands."

THREATENED TO STOP VOTE

Man Who Fled Town to Escape Lynchings Is In Need of Help

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—Elisha Davis, filling station operator of this mob-ruled town, who had to flee for his life because he wanted to vote, has appealed to the Southern Conference of the N.A.A.C.P. to aid him in finding employment elsewhere.

Mr. Davis, who was threatened with lynching and ordered to leave town by a white mob, is in hiding in another Tennessee town, and his wife and seven children are in dire need here. Another addition to his family is expected soon.

In the reign of terror spread against colored people here several weeks ago one colored man, Elbert Williams, was lynched and many were either driven or fled from town. The F. B. I. is now investigating the entire trouble at the insistence of the National Office of the N.A.A.C.P.

Any person who may be able to assist the N.A.A.C.P. in finding employment for Mr. Davis, is advised to write or telegraph J. L. LeFlore, chairman of the Southern N.A.A.C.P., P. O. Box 1091, Mobile, Alabama, or contact the N.A.A.C.P. headquarters at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

LYNCHINGS- 1940
SIDE LIGHTS

TENNESSEE

6623

Death Of Tennessee Negro Farmer Revealed As Quiet 1939 Lynchnig

The death of Jesse Lee Bonds, 20-year-old Negro tenant farmer, whose battered body was fished up out of a drainage canal near Arlington, Tenn., not far from Memphis, by a deputy sheriff, May 2, 1939, was cited as an example of an unidentified lynching by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People on Saturday.

Two white men, Charles Wilson, Arlington storekeeper, and his associate William Johnson, who are said to have led a band of white hoodlums in a chase after Bonds on April 28, were later arrested and held in Shelby County jail, charged with Bond's murder. The story behind the murder charge against Wilson and Johnson, who were freed January 23, 1940 by Criminal Court Judge Wallace, in Memphis, upon the recommendation of Attorney General Marion S. Boyd, traces the activities of these men up to the time that witnesses said they saw Bonds running for his life, after shots had been fired at him. From April 28, to May 2, 1939, no trace was found of Bonds until his body was taken from the canal by a deputy sheriff.

Young Bonds lived with his family in Shelby County near Arlington, Tenn. In the Spring of 1939 he owed a debt of twelve dollars to Wilson who ran a grocery store in Arlington. On the morning of April 28, 1939, William Johnson who was an associate of Wilson, came to Bonds' home and asked the latter to come down to the store because Wilson wanted to talk to him.

Miss Anna Bonds, Jesse's aunt, and a teacher in Arlington, went along to assure Wilson that she would stand for the debt, for both of them felt sure that that was what Wilson wanted.

When they arrived at the store, Johnson was standing near the front door. Wilson was in the rear of the store. When the two of them entered, Wilson began cursing and took a pistol from behind the counter. Johnson is said to have then shot at Bonds. Bonds escaped from the store and ran down the road. Wilson and Johnson are said to have started after him, only to return to the store and leave together in an automobile.

It is thought that Bonds was not hit by this firing because people in the community reported that they saw him running, apparently unhurt. One woman reported that he threw off his coat as he passed through her back yard. A white woman, who was in the community at the time, but lives in Memphis, said that she was willing to testify that she saw Bonds being dragged toward the river bottoms by a group of men including Wilson and Johnson.

'QUIET' LYNCHING BELIEVED HELD IN STATE LAST YEAR

Has Governor Cooper Heard About Death Of ~~Jesse Lee~~ Bonds in 1939?

NEW YORK, Mar 12—The death of Jesse Lee Bonds, 20-year-old Negro tenant farmer, whose battered body was fished up out of a drainage canal near Arlington, Tenn not far from Memphis, by a deputy sheriff, May 2, 1939, was cited as an example of an unidentified lynching today by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, while Governor Prentice Cooper is making an effort to defeat the bill against lynching.

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Posse Hunts Preacher for Killing Deputy

SOMERVILLE, Tenn.—(ANP)—An intensive manhunt got underway here Saturday by officers from three counties and a posse of more than 100 men for Burton Dodson, 60, former preacher already under indictment for assaulting a colored woman last July, who shot Chief Deputy Olin B. Burrow, 46, to death in a gun battle at Fayette corner Saturday morning.

Lawyer Menaced by Tennessee Mob, Run Out of Town

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., June 20—What is regarded as one of the most flagrant violations of civil rights visited upon Negro citizens in this town in recent years was revealed this week by J. L. LeFlore, regional director o the N. A. A. C. P., in the case of J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro attorney, who was prevented from arguing a case in the local courthouse June 3, and run out of town.

According to Mr. Ballard, he had come to Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood county, June 3, to argue a case for his client, Solomon Bailey, who had been charged with felonious assault upon a white man.

Without any warning or previous notice to the public, a mob of whites came into the courtroom where the attorney was, threatened him, attempted to exercise bodily harm on him, being restrained only by the judge hearing the case and finally drove him out of the courtroom and out of the ity. Mr. Ballard said he was escorted to the city limits by the sheriff, with the mob at his heels.

It is understood that the whites objected to seeing a Negro attorney defend one of his own race, this being the first time a Negro attorney has ever appeared in the local courthouse. It is also believed that, the fact that the Negro population, which outnumbers the whites, three to one, has decided to make a strong fight for the city. Mr. Ballard said he was fearful of this new influence in politics. According to Mr. LaFlore the N. A. A. C. P. will make a thorough investigation of the case.

Sheriff Escorts Counsel

Whites Objected To Him Defending Member of Race

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—What is regarded as one of the most flagrant violations of civil rights visited upon Negro citizens in this town in recent years was revealed last week by J. L. LeFlore, regional director of the NAACP, in the case of J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro attorney, who was prevented from arguing a case in the local courthouse June 3, and run out of town.

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Negro Attorney Run Out Of Tennessee To Keep Him From Court

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Tennessee Refugees Seek Aid

Man, Wife, And Seven Children Forced from City

NEW YORK CITY—(SNS)—An appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tennessee, is being answered by a country wide campaign for funds by the NAACP.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee (where he is also being threatened with violence) is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June. The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the NAACP resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 presidential elections.

THREATENED BY OFFICIAL

When the Reverend Buster Walker, 55, president of the Brownsville NAACP, and several others presented themselves before the proper official for registration they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a necktie party."

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mr. Davis' brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the NAACP, was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

The NAACP is calling on all citizens to contribute to a fund for the relief of the Brownsville exiles and for the purpose of attacking the whole situation to the end that colored citizens may return to their homes, vote in the 1940 elections, and pursue their normal lives.

"GAMBLED EVERYTHING"

In his letter to the NAACP Elisha Davis wrote:

"I gambled everything, my home, my business, my life, my family (wife and children) in order to prove to these people in Brownsville that the NAACP was all right. At present I am separated from my family. I am not making any money. I do not feel secure in the least. After having fold all in this case, my life here, even in this town, is constantly threatened."

The whole Brownsville, Tennessee situation has been placed in the hands of the United States Department of Justice by the NAACP. Dean William Hastie, chairman of the NAACP legal committee, has conferred with John Rogge, Assistant U. S. Attorney General; Walter White, NAACP secretary, has conferred with William McClanahan, U. S. Attorney at Memphis. Mr. White made a trip to Tennessee during which he gathered first-hand information on the Brownsville case.

The Brownsville situation, from beginning to end, is a story of the most open, flagrant, and unashamed exercise of mob terror and lynching that has come to light in many years.

It has been shown conclusively that Brownsville officials, including a night marshal and candidate fro sheriff, a night policeman, a county highway commissioner, and others were among the leaders of the mob which drove Brownsville NAACP leaders from town.

TO CARRY ON FIGHT

The present fund being raised by the NAACP is for the purpose not only of individual relief for the families of terrorized Brownsville citizens but to carry on the fight to clean up the Tennessee town so that colored people may enjoy the rights to which they are entitled as citizens.

Every pressure is being brought to bear on the federal and state governments to see that these people are restored in safety to their rights.

Meanwhile Brownsville is trying to block every effort to get at the trouble. Officers are posted on the highways leading into town and are turning back all colored people who do not live in Brownsville.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the NAACP, 69 Fifth avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

LYNCHINGS -1940
SIDE LIGHTS

6624

BARKLEY QUIZZED, REMINDED OF MOB ACTION IN TENN.

Daily Worker
7-30-40
Atlanta, Ga.

NEW YORK—(SNS)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Monday, again requested Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley to set a date for debate and vote on the pending Wagner-VanNuys Capper-Gavagan anti-lynching bill. The request was based upon the pledge of Senator Barkley before Negro delegates to the Democratic national convention in Chicago that "the anti-lynching bill will be voted upon before Congress adjourns."

"We are certain that Negroes throughout the country were heartened by this declaration," the letter said. "The organizations and individuals who have been for years working for enactment of this legislation are gratified at your statement and look forward to the opportunity to have the bill voted upon by the members of the United States Senate."

Senator Barkley was reminded of the recent lynching of Elbert Williams in Brownsville, Tenn., and the fact that several Negroes, including Reverend Buster Walker, have been unable to return to their homes because of the continued threat of mob violence in the community.

The branches of the NAACP and cooperating organizations and interested individuals are urged to immediately write or telegraph Senator Alben W. Barkley requesting an early date for a vote on the anti-lynching bill prior to adjournment of Congress.

White House Gets Another Appeal On Bronwsville

Journal
7-24-40
Louisville, Ky.

NEW YORK—Following up its two previous appeals to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the situation in Brownsville, Tenn., the NAACP set the following telegram Monday asking that immediate steps be taken to wipe out the terror in the Tennessee town:

"We appeal once more for action by your office to safeguard the citizenship rights of American Negroes in Brownsville, Tenn. The whole situation in Brownsville arose when law-abiding property holding colored citizens of that town evidenced their desire to register and vote in the coming November election. The result of this action was the lynching of Elbert Williams, 33, and the driving from the city of a half dozen or more citizens who were members of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The entire Negro population of Brownsville has been terrorized by mobs which have extended their threats to neighboring communities believed to be sheltering exiles from Brownsville. We understand Department of Justice agents are investigating specific lynching of Elbert Williams, but we urge that the issue is much greater than this and that all possible pressure must be exerted to the end that Brownsville lynchers are punished and Brownsville Negro citizens freed from terror. Most recent authenticated story is that one Negro Brownsville citizen proprietor of filling station and father of seven children not only dares not return home but dares not accept employment in neighboring city because of threats from Brownsville whites. Meanwhile his wife is expecting eighth child and is in dire need of medical attention and financial support. Because this Brownsville situation involves lynching and the right to vote for President of the United States, this association feels it is imperative that every effort be exerted to wipe out this lawlessness at once and permit these peaceful people to pursue their normal way of life."

BROWNVILLE REFUGE APPEALS FOR AID

Father of Seven Children Driven From Home By Mob, Reveals Wife Is To Have Another Child With No Means Of Support

New York, July 19—An urgent and tragic appeal has been received by the N.A.A.C.P. here from Tennessee asking for assistance for Elisha Davis, one of the half dozen men driven from their homes by mobs in Brownville, Tenn., in the middle of June because they inquired about their right to vote in the November presidential election.

Knoxville Journal
7-25-40
Knoxville, Tenn.

A letter from a town in Tennessee where Mr. Davis is in hiding reveals that his wife expects to become a mother in less than two months. The Davises already have seven children.

In the town where Mr. Davis is seeking safety from the mob he is unable to secure work, mostly because of his fear that he will be hunted down and killed by white persons from Brownville. Already on two occasions, white people from Brownville have made inquiries in the town where he is staying as to his whereabouts.

A Brownsville mob already has lynched Elbert Williams, 33, as a of the terror being imposed upon Negroes for their attempt to register and vote.

The open threats against Negroes have quieted down somewhat because the N.A.A.C.P. has intervened in Washington to secure an investigation by Department of Justice agents, but the situation is fraught with great danger.

The fury of the mob is directed especially against members of the Brownsville chapter of the N.A.A.C.P. All efforts to hold a meeting have beent broken up. The president of the Brownsville N.A.A.C.P., the Rev. Buster Walker, has been driven out of town. All other colored people suspected of being members of the Brownsville chapter are being terrorized. White people even have gone to neighboring towns where they suspect the exiles to be hiding and warned that they would be killed upon sight.

Elisha Davis, who was active in the N.A.A.C.P. branch and who owned and operated a filling station, was one of the first to be driven from the city. For more than a month, he has not been able to see his wife and seven children, or to comfort her while she is awaiting the eighth child. She is reported to be in need of medical attention.

No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in Brownsville and the colored people there do not know whether anything is being done in their behalf or not. No strange Negroes are allowed in the city.

Despite the terror in Brownsville and vicinity and the threats against N.A.A.C.P. officers in other parts of Tennessee, the local officers are determined to carry on the work and have indicated that they will not be frightened by the mobs.

The N.A.A.C.P. headquarters here is appealing for contributions for the relief of the families and for the carrying on of the fight to clean up Brownsville. Contributions should be sent to the N.A.A.C.P. at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. Checks should be made payable to Mary White Ovington, treasurer.

TENNESSEE

Nashville, Tenn. Tennessean
August 25, 1940

NASHVILLE NEGROES TO PROTEST MOB

Meeting Here Planned for Thursday; Brownsville Lynchings Cited

The Nashville chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will sponsor a meeting at St. John's Negro Methodist Church here Thursday night to protest "the lynching of three Negroes in Brownsville" in June.

Walter White, Negro, executive secretary of the national association, who has investigated the Brownsville episode, will be the principal speaker at the meeting.

His topic will be "Shall Mob Violence Rule?"

BODY FOUND

Publicity released by the association states that the body of Elbert Williams, Negro, was found in the Loosahatchie River with two bullet wounds and marks of flogging several days after a delegation of Negroes called on the mayor to ask that they be allowed to vote.

Later, according to the association, the bodies of two other Negroes, never identified, were found with bullet wounds and marks of flogging.

OTHERS SAID CHASED

Other Negroes who were "chased out of town by threat of mob violence," according to the association, include Thomas, Elisha and Erma Davis, Willie Williams, Alex Hill, Taylor Newbern, DeWitt Cobb and Joseph Boone.

M. W. Day, editor of the Negro Globe here and chairman of the Nashville chapter's executive committee, said last night that a white citizen will also speak at the Thursday night meeting.

REFUGEE FROM TERROR IN BROWNVILLE, TENN. APPEALS FOR AID

Christian Recorder

N.A.A.C.P. Asks Funds for Father of Seven Children, Driven Out of Town by Mob, and Others, in Fight for Voting Rights

7-25-40

Philadelphia Pa.

NEW YORK, N. Y.—An appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who was driven from his business, his wife and seven children by a mob in Brownsville, Tennessee, is being answered by a country-wide campaign for funds by the N.A.A.C.P.

Mr. Davis, who is now living in another town in Tennessee (where he is also being threatened with violence), is 39 years old and was the owner and operator of a filing station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in mid-June. The campaign of terror against colored citizens of Brownsville, and particularly against the officers and members of the Brownsville branch of the N.A.A.C.P., resulted from the attempt of several citizens to register and vote in the 1940 presidential elections.

When the Reverend Buster Walker, 55, president of the Brownsville N. A. A. C. P., and several others presented themselves before the proper official registration they were told "You had better stop this or there will be a neck-tie party."

Mr. Walker and Mr. Davis and Mr. Davis' brother were run out of town and Elbert Williams, another member of the N.A.A.C.P., was found dead in the river with two wounds in his chest. He had been lynched.

The N.A.A.C.P. is calling on all citizens to contribute to a fund for the relief of the Brownsville exiles and for the purpose of attacking the whole situation to the end that colored citizens may return to their homes, vote in the 1940 elections, and pursue their normal lives.

In his letter to the N.A.A.C.P. Elisha Davis wrote:

"I gambled everything, my home, my business, my life, my family (wife and children) in order to prove to those people in Brownsville that the N. A. A. C. P. was all right. At present I am separated from my family. I am not making any money. I do not feel secure in the least. After having told it in this case, my life here, even in this town, is constantly threatened."

The whole Brownsville, Tennessee, situation has been placed in the hands of the United States Department of Justice by the N.A.A.C.P. Dean William Hastie, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P. legal committee, has conferred with O. John Rogge, Assistant U. S. Attorney General; Walter White, N.A.A.C.P. Secretary, has conferred with William McClanahan, U. S. Attorney at Memphis. Mr. White made a trip to Tennessee during which he gathered first-hand information on the Brownsville case.

The Brownsville situation, from beginning to end, is a story of the most open, flagrant, and unashamed exercise of mob terror and lynching that has come to light in many years.

It has been shown conclusively that Brownsville officials, including a night marshal and candidate for sheriff, a light policeman, a county highway commissioner, and others were among the leaders of the mob which drove Brownsville N.A.A.C.P. leaders from town.

Elisha Davis was waked in the middle of the night, forced to dress at the point of a pistol, and his wife was told "You will never see this black.... again. We are going to kill him."

Davis was taken to a river bottom about six miles from town and was asked about the purposes of the N. A. A. C. P. He was threatened with death unless he told the names of the members of the branch. Finally, he was released and told to leave the county and "never show his face there again." His wife and 7 children are at the mercy of the hoodlums in Brownsville.

At the recent N.A.A.C.P. conference in Philadelphia, Pa., outraged delegates contributed spontaneously the sum of $155 after the Reverend Buster Walker had told a graphic story of the terror in Brownsville.

The present fund being raised by the N.A.A.C.P. is for the purpose not only of individual relief for the families of terrorized Brownsville citizens but to carry on the fight to clean up he Tennessee town so that colored people may enjoy the rights to which they are entitled as citizens.

Every pressure is being brought to bear on the federal and state governments to see that these people are restored in safety to their rights.

Meanwhile Brownsville is trying to block every effort to get at the trouble. Officers are posted on the highways leading into town and are turning back all colored people who do not live in Brownsville.

Contributions for the Brownsville case should be sent to the N.A.A.C.P., 59 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Checks may be made payable to Mary White Ovington, Treasurer.

U. S. ATTORNEY AWAITS 'LYNCH' PROBE REPORT

Commercial Appeal

Inquiry Conducted Into Death Of Brownsville Negro

6-30-40

WASHINGTON IS CURIOUS

Memphis, Tenn

Investigation Followed Question On Case From Washington, And After Study Of Reports By N.A.A.C.P.

United States Dist. Atty. William McClanahan said yesterday he is awaiting a report on a Federal investigation of the death of Everett Williams, 33-year-old Brownsville, Tenn., negro whose body was found in the Hatchie River last Sunday.

The probe, he said, was made after an inquiry from Federal officials at Washington and after he had talked with Walter White, negro secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

White is understood to have conducted a quiet study of the case here on behalf of his organization. He returned to Washington by plane Friday.

Reports from Brownsville are that Williams is believed to have been killed by a group of unidentified men following recent attempts of some Brownsville negroes to arrange to be allowed to vote in the coming presidential election.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents in the Memphis office said yesterday that while they have read of the case in newspaper reports, they have not been called on in connection with it. They added that no angle of Federal violation has been brought to their attention in the slaying.

Williams is understood to have been connected with the N. A. A. C. P., although it has not been determined that he was a member. He was questioned by Brownsville police a few hours before the time his death is believed to have taken place.

BEST EDITORIAL OF THE WEEK

Kansas City, Kansas

8-9-40

TENNESSEE TERROR

The terror which Negroes are undergoing in Brownsville, Tennessee, as a result of local NAACP officials' effort to make it possible for colored people to vote, is almost unbelievable.

In June the officials inquired about Negroes voting in Tennessee. One Elbert Williams was lynched. Negroes have been driven from the town. All efforts to hold a meeting of the local branch of the NAACP have been prevented. No Negro newspapers are permitted to be sold in the town. No strange Negroes are permitted to enter the village. Elisha Davis of the NAACP was driven from his home there and is being hunted in the town where he has taken refuge.

This situation brings to mind the activities of Nazi Germany in its wrath directed toward the Jews. It seems as though the Department of Justice of the United States government, which has increased its force to strike down un-American activities would be more than interested. The occasion of the terror was the result of citizens trying to exercise a right specifically given them by the Constitution of our government. Any overt act designed to prevent the exercise of that right certainly is un-American.

Besides, the prospective voters were desiring to vote in a national elections to elect Representatives, Senators, a Vice President and a President of the United States. It appears to us that our national government would be remiss in its duties, not only to the victims of this mob terror, not only to the Negroes in the country, but to the continuity of democracy itself, if it does not become actively interested in the case and prosecute every person who is terrorizing the Negroes as well as the peace officers of the city and state that permit such a condition to exist.

—CHICAGO BEE.

Body Of Leader Active In Vote Fight Is Found In River

Whites Terrorize Homes of Negro Citizens Who Seek Ballot In Brownsville

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn.—The body of Elbert Williams, one of the leaders in the local N. A. A. C. P.-sponsored campaign to get Negro citizens here to vote, was fished up from a nearby river Sunday, June 23, officials of the association announced in New York Monday.

This was the first death of a Negro (regarded by citizens as an off-the-record lynching) at the hands of whites here since white mobbists began terrorizing Negroes, when the vote campaign started here several months ago.

The national office of the N. A. A. C. P. announced that the Rev. Buster Walker, president of the local branch of the association who has been active in the leadership of the voting campaign, was scheduled to hold a conference in Washington June 24 with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge, relative to a justice department investigation of the Brownsville situation.

The Rev. Mr. Walker was accompanied by Dean William H. Hastie, chairman of the national N.A.A.C.P. legal committee, and Leon A. Ransom, also of the legal committee.

10 Forced to Flee

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Because Negroes comprise three-fourths of the 19,000 population of Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood county, Tennessee, whites have tried to discourage them from voting.

Give Donations

They have discharged Negroes from jobs refused credit in local banks to all known Negro N. A. A. C. P. members, threatened to discontinue Negro teachers in their jobs, and have been reported to have opened mail sent from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to officials of the local branch.

After a stirring plea before the 31st annual N.A.A.C.P. conference at Tindley Temple in Philadelphia June 21, the Rev. Mr. Walker was given a spontaneous collection of $155.47 from the delegates present at the morning discussion meeting to start a defense fund. He told delegates to the conference that he intended to go back to continue the fight "for my people." Rev. Walker's story of the terror operating against Brownsville's Negro citizens in part:

"They began to inquire where we were holding our meetings. They said they were going to break it up in a rough way. And on last Thursday night some cars went to Memphis to some big turnout and got back about 1 o'clock. They stopped at the cafe, three or four car loads. The news went out that we had had a meeting. Next morning early they had the proprietor of the cafe and drilled him about 6 o'clock in the morning. They sent for Rome, an undertaker there, a colored man, and carried him around. They sent for two or three more. I went down and they sent for me. I went around to the office, and they wanted to know about the meeting last night.

Quizz Rev. Walker

"I said, 'We had no meeting last night.' 'Well, where were you night before last? Your car could not be found.' 'I told them I was in Jackson running a series of meetings where I pastor.' They said, 'Well, I know you could not be found. You were out of town gathering information for these niggers. You want to be smart. You want to wake the niggers up.' I said, 'No, I was out looking after my work.' 'Where was your car last night?' I said, 'I spent the night with a sick man.'

"So they began to make threats as to what was going to happen, until we went to the present Mayor, President of the Brownsville Bank. We related our story. We talked it over and told him what was about to occur.

Mayor Is Fair

"He is a very fair man. He said, 'Now, some of them came to me and talked to me about you colored people wanting to vote. You have a right to vote, as much right to vote as I have, and I don't blame you for wanting to vote. But we have some trash among my group as well as among yours. These redhecks, there is no telling what they will do. It is just a proposition that I cannot handle. I don't know what will be the outcome.'

"That was last Saturday. I operate a curb market at Brownsville and am always busy on Saturday. Saturday night they formed a mob at the courthouse and they came to the market seeking me. My helper and several others were there. Just before 12 o'clock I went out to the cafes. I was out collecting. They came for me but I chanced to see them. They were riding in a car, drove right by me but had their eyes focused on the shop where the light was at the market. I had just come out of one of the cafes and was crossing the street to another.

"They came close by me. One of the said, 'Yon he is, yon he is.' They were looking under the shed. I heard them and said, 'They must be looking for me.' So I rushed right across into the colored place. They went down and unloaded and asked for me, all with their guns in their hands. I heard my helper say 'He is up the street somewhere.' They stepped over and asked another man. He said 'I don't know; he is out collecting somewhere.' I went into the cafe and turned the light out.

Beat Up People

"Some man came and said 'Tell Walker not to come out. Some white folks are out there looking for him.' They began knocking and beating up some of my people on the street. Professor Outlaw learned they were looking for me. He rushed out asking that I be brought out right away. I made it out, got in his car and he escaped out of town with me. We then went to another town about 20 miles away.

"We stayed a while. Elisha Davis, a young man at Brownsville with a wife and seven children, who operates a filling station had just closed. They rode up, six car loads went to his house, got him and came by my house and made a general search, finally found him and carried him to the bottom. They grilled him, some time between midnight and day. Nobody knew what became of him. But he made it out to the little town of Alamo and called up Jackson. He talked with Lawyer Ballard. Ballard and Mitchell went for him in a car and brought him to Jackson.

"Outlaw also had to leave town. They threatened him because he had taken me away. So there are as many as seven people that I chanced to see who have had to leave town since then. They are not seen on the streets at night. They were threatened and knocked until none of them are seen on the streets at night.

"I feel happy to be here with you. Yet, with existing circumstances it has its effect. All of my belongings I have left behind. I don't know just what the outcome will be. But I am determined, with God-given strength, to do all I can even under these conditions, to put forth some effort to help emancipate my people from this condition."

FIND BODY OF NAACP LEADER IN TENN. RIVER

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., J[illegible] The body of Elbert Williams, one of the leaders in the local

A campaign to get Negro citizens here to vote, was fished up from a nearby river Sunday, June 23, officials of the association announced in New York this week.

This was the first death of a Negro (regarded by citizens as an off-the-record lynching) at the hands of whites here since white mobbists began terrorizing Negroes, when the vote campaign started here several months ago.

Drowned on Confab Eve

The National office of the N. A. A. C. P. announced this week that the Rev. Buster Walker, president of the local branch of the association, who has been active in the leadership of the voting campaign, was scheduled to hold a conference in Washington June 24 with Assistant United States Attorney General John O. Rogge, relative to a Justice Department investigation of the Brownsville situation. The Rev. Mr. Walker was accompanied by Dean William H. Hastie, chairman of the national NAACP legal committee, and Leon A. Ransom, also of the legal committee.

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Because Negroes comprise three fourths of the 19,000 population of Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood county, Tenn., whites have tried to discourage them from voting. They have discharged Negroes from jobs, refused credit in local banks to all known Negro N. A. A. C. P. members, threatened to discontinue Negro teachers in their jobs, and have been reported to have opened mail sent from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to officials of the local branch.

Body Of Leader Is Found

Regarded As "Off-the-Record" Mob Violence

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INTIMIDATED NEGROES

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Elbert Williams Sponsored Campaign to Get Negroes To Vote in Brownsville

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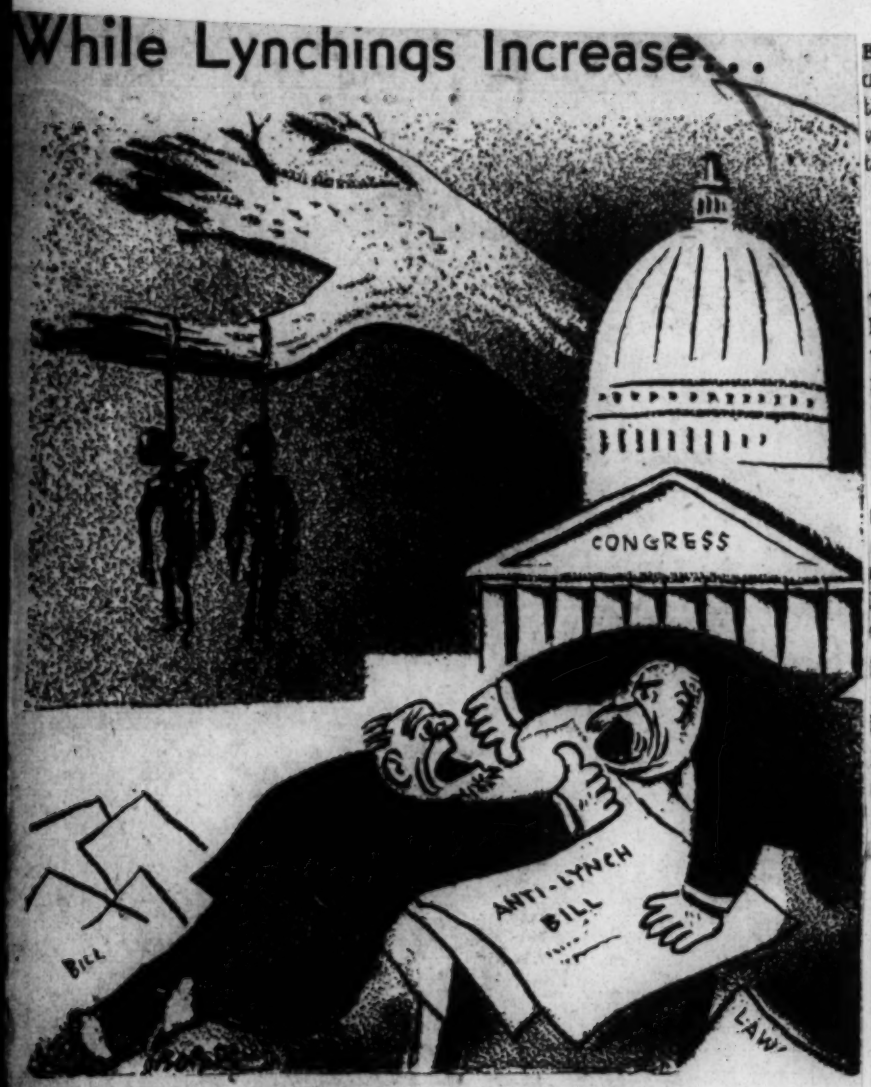
Protests Force Probe of Tenn. Lynching

FBI Announces It Will Investigate Long Reign of Terror

Under pressure of a storm of indignant protests from all over the country, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, through its assistant attorney general O. John Rogge, has been forced to state in a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that it will investigate the criminal lynching of Elbert Williams whose mutilated body was fished up from a river near Brownsville, Tenn., several weeks ago.

Assistant attorney general Rogge, in his letter to the NAACP July 12, writes that "you will be glad to know that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been requested to make a thorough investigation of violations of civil liberties of Negroes in Brownsville, Tennessee.."

Since the names of two bank officials, a highway commissioner and police officers were named in a report submitted a few weeks to President Roosevelt and Attorney Jackson as the leaders of the mob that lynched Williams, Negroes of Brownsville have been undergoing a constant wave of lynch terror which was unleashed against them in early June when Negroes attempted to register to vote in the 1940 Presidential elections.



Tenn. Terror Continues After Brutal Lynching

Negro Residents of Brownsville Afraid to Testify as Threats Keep Lips Sealed on Lynching of N.A.A.C.P. Worker

Negro citizens of Brownsville, Tenn., are still undergoing a wave of lynch terror following the brutal lynching of Elbert Williams, an active NAACP worker.

So intense has the terror become against Negroes, that residents of Brownsville are afraid to discuss the lynching of Williams, according to Howard D. Gould, writing in the Chicago Defender for July 6.

Gould says that fear that the mob would find them if they talked about the lynching and brutality sealed the lips of most. During the week it was impossible to talk with any residents of Brownsville over the telephone, even if the residents had been willing to talk.

Even men who have been driven out of town have little to say as their families are still in Brownsville and may suffer the wrath of the mob."

ATTEMPTED TO VOTE

As the terror against Negroes in Brownsville reached new proportions, an appeal to the country for help by Elisha Davis, who with his wife and seven children, were driven from his business, was made public yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Davis is now living in another town where he is also being threatened with violence. He was the operator of a filling station in Brownsville prior to the outbreak of violence there in the middle of June.

Lynch terror against Negroes in Brownsville flared up when several Negro citizens attempted to register to vote in the 1940 Presidential elections.

Fifty-five year-old Rev. Buster Walker, president of the Brownsville NAACP, and a group of Negroes, were told by an official at the registration office "You had better stop this or there will be a neck-tie party."

Rev. Walker, Mr. Davis and his brother were run out of town.

The dead body of Elbert Williams was fished up from a river near Brownsville a few weeks ago. Names of two bankers, police and highway officials of Brownsville have been placed before the Department of Justice and the Attorney General by the NAACP, charging them with leading the mob that lynched Williams. There has been no word from either of the government agencies.

ATTORNEY RUN OUT OF BROWNSVILLE, TENN. NAACP OFFICIAL SAYS

BROWNSVILLE, Tenn., June 20—What is regarded as one of the most flagrant violations of civil rights visited upon Negro citizens in this town in recent years was revealed last week by J. L. LeFlore, regional director of the N. A. A. C. P., in the case of J. Emmett Ballard, a Negro attorney, who was prevented from arguing a case in the local courthouse June 3, and run out of town.

According to Mr. Ballard, he had come to Brownsville, the county seat of Haywood County, June 3, to argue a case for his client, Soloman Bailey, who had been charged with felonious assault upon a white man.

Without any warning or previous notice to the public, a mob of whites came into the courtroom where the attorney was, threatened him, attempted to exercise bodily harm on him, being restrained only by the judge hearing the case, and finally drove him out of the courtroom and out of the city. Mr. Ballard said he was escorted to the city limits by the sheriff, with the mob at his heels.

It is understood that the whites objected to seeing a Negro attorney defend one of his own race, this being the first time a Negro attorney has ever appeared in the local courthouse. It is also believed that, the fact that the Negro population, which out-numbers the whites three to one, has decided to make a strong fight for the ballot, has made the whites fearful of this new influence in politics.

Streamlined Lynching Takes Another Victim

Elbert Williams, a Negro fireman in Brownsville, Tenn., was lynched the other day—a victim of the new stream-lined lynch technique adopted by Southern landlords and mill owners.

Because Williams was a leader in a right-to-vote campaign, his body was fished up out of a river, beaten almost beyond recognition. This hideous murder was perpetrated by the so-called "best people"—two bankers, a state highway commissioner and several policemen, whose names have already been sent to President Roosevelt and the Department of Justice by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

But while both the White House and the FBI are busy whipping up a witch-hunting atmosphere against the foreign-born, labor and other minorities, no statements or action have been taken to bring these lynchers to justice.

In fact, neither the Republicans nor the Democrats display the slightest interest in enforcing the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments. The policies of both parties are to smash civil liberties in preparation for imperialist war. The Republican platform on the Negro is one of meaningless generalities and evasions. Likewise, Roosevelt shows his "national unity" with the lynchers by stabbing the anti-lynching bill in the back.

In this election campaign, only the Communist Party comes forward with a program against the frightful oppression of the Negro, symbolized in the beastly lynching of Williams. Earl Browder, in "The Road to Peace," sums it up in clear, concrete language:

"Demand the immediate enactment of the Federal Anti-Lynching Bill, which has been so shamefully pigeonholed by Congress and the Administration.

"Secure the franchise to the Southern masses, white and Negro, by immediate federal legislation prohibiting and penalizing all poll tax laws and other limitations on the franchise, as a national issue, not a regional Southern issue, without the solution of which there is no effective democracy for the whole nation.

"Abolition of all discriminatory legislation and customs directed against the Negro population; unconditional equality, economic, political and social."

The Negro people must have full citizenship if democratic liberties are to be assured for any Americans during these crucial days.



Lynching Definition Needed

By ROBERT M. RATCLIFFE

THE TIME HAS COME when someone—an experienced person—should come forth with a good, sound definition for lynching.

That we need such a definition stood out very plainly last week when Dr. F. D. Patterson of Tuskegee and Walter White of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People released conflicting reports on the number of lynchings in this country during the first six months of 1940.

Dr. Paterson said, "None!"

"Four," cried Walter White.

A puzzled public stand by and wonders.

Take a look at the four victims listed by Mr. White and draw your own conclusions. A white couple Sarah Rawls and Benton Ford were beaten to death near McDonough, Georgia, last March. Ike Gaston, white, was flogged to death several days later near East Point, Ga. The bullet-riddled body of Elbert Williams, of Brownsville, Tenn., was fished from a river last month. A former inmate of the Georgia insane asylum has confessed murdering Miss Rawls and Benton; the death of Gaston, believed the work of Klansmen, could be classed as accidental (he was whipped too hard), and until now, it has not been proved that Williams was not murdered.

Murder is not considered lynching. The Williams' case in Tennessee appears to be the nearest thing to a "mob party". The newspapers are not so sure either. Most of them refer to the incident as an "on-record" lynching.

No doubt about it, lynching has gone streamlined. And that is why we need a good, sound definition. If for no other reason then to keep the records straight.

AFTER THE GEORGIA bar examination papers had been graded last week, not one of the six colored members of the class of 114 was among the 24 who passed.

"The exam was easy", one of the colored youths said after leaving the Fulton County Courthouse. And there were one or two graduates of the Howard University Law School who took the examination, too.

It must be remembered, however, that only 24 white persons passed out of a group of 108 members of the other race.

Maybe it wasn't so easy as they thought.

"STATE TAKES OVER JACKSON (Mississippi) COLLEGE"—Headline in newspaper. (Which should lessen the worries of teachers between paydays.)

John Miles Ward, 96-year-old resident of Orchard Hill, Georgia, who can't read, was perfectly willing to hold an open book in his hand while having his picture snapped, but he refused to hold a cigar in his hand because he never used tobacco.